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INFORMATION LETTER #005

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The Airplane Factory (Pty) Ltd issues this Information letter for the safety of Sling aircraft users.

TITLE: Garmin GPS losing signal

REASON: EFIS, navigation systems and autopilot is compromised due to the loss of GPS signal.

MODELS AFFECTED: All models fitted with a Garmin panel G3X touch where the software has been updated to the newer versions 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3.

RECOMMENDATION: All users of the Garmin panel G3X touch with version 4.9 installed, are requested for the time being, not to update their system software to the newer version 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 software. Consultation with Garmin and Aeronautical Instrumentation have brought to light that the newer software has a need for increased satellite accuracy rendering the current antenna positioning inadequate to deliver the required signal strength.

Note:

- (1) Should satellite signal be lost in flight, the aircraft should be stabilized in normal level flight with reference to the horizon, in VFR conditions, the Garmin G3X touch system should then be rebooted by cycling both the EFIS and EFIS back-up switches. The system should take a few minutes to initialise and GPS signal should be regained.
- (2) It is recommended that while a solution is being investigated that a suitable supplementary GPS is carried onboard the aircraft as a back-up in the event that the GPS signal cannot be restored

Signed on this the 21st day of April 2017

MARK FERREIRA
ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER
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