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AIRWORTHINESS

AVIONICS

AIRBORNE RADIO EQUIPMENT

1. All modern aircraft are equipped with very high frequency (VHF) as well as other avionic apparatus. However, on virtually all aircraft the audio outputs of these receivers are coupled to an audio isolation amplifier which supplies power to the loudspeaker.
2. However, such a system has a serious drawback, viz if either the audio isolation amplifier or the loudspeaker should fail to function; audio output from all the radio equipment would be lost unless headphones were available. Several such incidents have recently occurred. If the microphone should also fail to function, transmission would not be possible from any of the equipment.
3. In view of the above it is strongly recommended that a spare microphone and a set of headphones be carried in the aircraft whenever it is flown. This will eliminate the possibility of a complete radio failure resulting from a single minor defect.