



SOUTH AFRICAN POWER FLYING ASSOCIATION
PO Box 27 013, Greenacres, 6057

13 January 2004

The Regulating Committee for Meteorological Services
Care of: the Chief Director for Pollution and Waste Management
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism,
C/o Dr J Matjila
Fax 012 320 0615
PRETORIA .

Dear Sirs,

**NOTICE NO. 1685: SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER SERVICE:
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DETERMINE USER CHARGES TO BE
APPLIED TO THE AVIATION
INDUSTRY**

The South African Power Flying Association (SAPFA) represents a portion of the general aviation flying community, mainly those taking part in competitive sport flying.

On behalf of the members of SAPFA I would like to object to the contents of the Notice 1685 on the following grounds:

It is illegal – In our opinion the charges levied are contrary to Section 165 of the Constitution and would be set aside if challenged in court.

It is erroneous – if one applies the formula the calculated charge is so large it is obviously incorrect. In addition there is an element of double charging for aircraft in that aircraft between 2000kg and 5000kg pay both the VFR charge and the IFR charge. One can only conclude that little thought has gone into the calculation of the charges. Even the email address of the contact person is incorrect.

It is unfair – charges are being levied against one small part of the users of the weather services merely because they are identifiable. There are millions of people that rely on services provided by the SAWS but charges are only being levied on aircraft owners, approximately 5 000 users.

It is contrary to Government policy – Current government policy is to charge for services on a “User pays” basis. The vast majority of aircraft owners fly under VFR conditions in a local area and do not require weather services in that their own observations are adequate to determine if it is safe to fly or not. Although these aircraft owners are not users they are still expected to pay.

If one takes into account the items above we believe that the Notice should be scrapped and the aviation community properly consulted before any charges are levied on aircraft owners.

Yours sincerely

C J Booyesen
Chairman
South African Power Flying Association