

Testing a headset

You can carry out some basic tests for yourself. These will help to determine whether it is actually the headset that is faulty, or if the problem lies elsewhere.

- To eliminate the possibility of the problem originating in the aircraft in which you first noticed the fault, you should test the headset in a different aircraft if possible.
- There is usually no need to make a radio transmission to test a headset. This would be more a radio test than a headset test, but you could make one if the following tests show the headset to be working correctly and you subsequently suspect that it might actually be the radio that is faulty.
- Check that the headset plugs are clean. a **light** scuff with a cleaning pad such as a 'scotchbrite' brand pad will clean non-plated plugs effectively. Plated (silver) headset plugs don't usually suffer from oxidation like the unplated brass plugs do, but both types must be clean, so you should at least remove any dirt build-up with a clean cloth.
- Plug the headset into either the pilot or co-pilot position, turn on the electrical master switch, turn on the avionics and/or radio switch (and anything else that particular aircraft needs to activate the radio/intercom), turn the headset earphone volume (on the headset) to maximum and talk into the microphone. You should hear your voice through the earphones of the same headset.
- If you can hear your own voice the headset is working. Adjust the headset volume control through the full range from minimum to maximum to check that there is no fault with the volume control. You could also try wiggling the com cords to see if this causes the headset to fail.
- If you don't hear anything try the following:
 - If the intercom system has a VOX (voice operated switch) or squelch control, try adjusting this from the minimum to the maximum extreme while continuously talking into the microphone. If this adjustment allows you to hear yourself through the headset, the problem is either an adjustment problem or possibly a headset microphone problem. Try another aircraft to see if it was just an intercom sensitivity problem in the first one.
 - If you still haven't identified the problem get a second headset and plug it into the opposite (pilot or co-pilot) position.
 - Talk into the microphone of the second headset while listening to the headset you are testing.
 - If you can't hear anything, the headset you are testing might have a fault on the earphone side.
 - Now swap the headsets over and try the same test again.
 - Talk into the microphone of the headset you are testing while listening to the second headset.
 - If you can't hear anything, the headset you are testing might have a fault on the microphone side.
- Note the results of your tests and record them on our standard '**Equipment Fault Report**' form.