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GACA Regulatory Exemption

4-2020-01

This GACA Regulatory Exemption
has been superseded by
GACA Regulatory Exemption

4-2020-01A



General Regulatory Exemption

In response to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid-19 outbreak and its impact on Saudi Arabian Air Operators' personnel certificates, training, and qualification requirements, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), based on Article-16-(17) of The Saudi Arabian Civil Aviation Law (Royal Decree No. M/44), GACA board of directors (Order No .T-41, dated 30/12/1429H – 28 /12/2008G), GACAR (11.5.c), GACAR (§ 11.7), and after considering the assessment report received from the Assistant President of Aviation Standards (ref no. 5/15/23/2000/1441- dated Aril 12th 2020), the President is, hereby, granting this exemption to provide specific reliefs to GACAR Parts 121, 125, 142, and 143 Certificate Holders, from certain requirements pertaining to their Crewmembers and Flight Dispatchers certificates, training and qualification requirements subject to the conditions and limitations prescribed in this Exemption.

This Exemption is valid while operating within the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its aerodromes. Operators intending to operate international flights shall coordinate with the competent civil aviation authorities of that country including other airspaces used for overflying.

This exemption does not provide relief from Initial, Transition or Upgrade training and qualification requirements under GACAR Parts 121 and 125.

This exemption is focused on the timeframes for completing relevant Sections of GACAR Parts 121 and 125 in addition to extending the validity periods of Airmen, Aircraft Dispatchers, English Language Proficiency and Medical Certificates as stipulated in GACAR Parts 61 and 65 respectively.

To supplement the intent of the relief provided by this Exemption, Approvals, Authorizations and Designations for Check Pilots, ADEs and Training Center Examiners are included in the extended validity of this Exemption.

The Training and Qualification requirements include Recurrent Training, Testing, Checking, Evaluations, Recency, and Observation activities, whenever normal training Facilities/Organizations are not available or accessible.

1. Extending validity periods of training and checking timeframes requirements under GACAR Parts 121 and 125:

- a. Subject to the conditions stated in paragraph (b) below and the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the respective POI, operators will be exempted from the standard validity periods of training and checking, as set out in the applicable training and checking requirements of GACAR Parts 121 and 125 listed in Appendix A of this exemption, and that expire after **February 1st 2020**

Validity periods may be extended to the end of the validity period of this Exemption for all of the following:

- 1) Recurrent Training as required by GACAR Parts 121 and 125 (See Appendix A).
 - 2) Proficiency Checks as required by Section 121.797.
 - 3) Line Checks (LC) in accordance with Section 121.793 (a).
 - 4) Pilot recent experience requirement as required by Section 121.769 (a).
 - 5) Dangerous goods recurrent training as required by Section 121.1609
- b. When using the relief provided under this section, each operator must ensure that crewmembers and aircraft dispatchers receive a refresher training, followed by the completion of an assessment by means established by the operator to determine that the required level of knowledge to operate the applicable class or type has been maintained.
- 1) The refresher training could be done for via briefing, leaflet, bulletin, CBT, video or any other means to fulfill the objectives set above.
 - 2) The assessment shall include class or type specific abnormal and emergency procedures.
 - 3) For Pilots, the assessment shall be performed by a check pilot and be recorded in the crewmember training records.
 - 4) For Flight Engineers, the assessment shall be performed by a Check Flight Engineer and be recorded in the crewmember training records.
 - 5) For Cabin Crew, the assessment shall be performed by a Cabin Crew Supervisor and be recorded in the crewmember training records.
 - 6) For Aircraft Dispatchers, the assessment shall be performed by an Aircraft Dispatch Supervisor and be recorded in the Aircraft Dispatcher training records.

2. Extending validity period of airmen certificates issued in accordance GACAR Parts 61 and 65

- a. Subject to the conditions stated in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) below; the following Airmen Certificates may be extended to the end of expiry date of this Exemption:
- 1) GACA issued ATPL and Commercial Pilot Certificate.
 - 2) GACA issued Flight Engineer Certificate.
 - 3) GACA Medical Certificates.
 - 4) GACA Issued Cabin Crew Certificate.
 - 5) GACA Issued Aircraft Dispatcher Certificate.
 - 6) English Language Proficiency (ELP) recurrent requirement as in 61.53 (b).
- b. The relief is only applicable to Certificates expiring after February 1st 2020,
- c. The relief is only applicable while a Crewmember or an Aircraft Dispatcher remain employed and is under the management of that Certificate Holder for the entire effective period of this Exemption, and
- d. Medical Certificate conditions and limitations are contained in Appendix B

3. Procedures:

- a. Each Operator using the relief provided by this Exemption shall apply to the POI by sending a Letter of Intent (LOI) including the following:
- 1) Number and type of aircraft.
 - 2) Number of crewmembers and aircraft dispatchers whose certificates, as listed in section 2, expiring between February 1st 2020 and June 30th 2020.
 - 3) Number of crewmembers and aircraft dispatchers whose training and qualification expiring between February 1st 2020 and June 30th 2020 for each type of aircraft.
 - 4) Details of compliance with refresher training and assessment requirement in section 2 (b) above.
- b. Once approved by the POI, a copy of this Exemption shall be carried onboard each aircraft.
- c. The approval will be granted by issuing OpSpec A005.

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- d. Each crewmember and aircraft dispatcher shall have the required certificates on his own possession at all times while performing his/her duties.

4. Expiry:

This exemption terminates on 30 June 2020, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Abdulhadi Bin Ahmed Al-Mansouri

President of General Authority of Civil Aviation
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Appendix A

Recurrent Training requirement under GACAR Parts 121 and 125

For Part 121 Crewmembers and Aircraft Dispatchers:

- Section 121.835 (c) Training Required, Recurrent training.
- Section 121.839 (c) Training Program: General.
- Section 121.863 (b) (2), (c) (2) and (g) Qualifications: Check Pilot (Aircraft) and Check Pilot (Simulator).
- Section 121.867 (b) (2), (c) (2) and (g) Qualifications: Flight Instructors (Aircraft) and Flight Instructors (Simulator).
- Section 121.871 Initial, Transition and Recurrent Training and Checking Requirements. Check Pilot (Aircraft), Check Pilot (Simulator).
- Section 121.875 Initial, Transition and Recurrent Training and Checking Requirements. Flight Instructor (Aircraft), Flight Instructor (Simulator).
- Section 121.883 (a) (2) Differences Training and Related Aircraft Differences Training.
- Section 121.887 operator crew resource management recurrent training.
- Section 121.907 (c) Crew Members: Emergency Training.
- Section 121.911 (b) (4) (iii) Crew Members: Training for In Flight Medical Events.
- Section t 121.919 Recurrent Training.
- Section 121.1609 dangerous goods recurrent training.

For Part 125 Crewmembers:

- Section :125.347 Pilot Qualifications: Recent Experience.
- Section 125.349 Initial and Recurrent Pilot Testing Requirements.
- Section 125.351 Initial and Recurrent Cabin Crew Member Testing Requirements.
- Section 125.353 instrument proficiency check.

Appendix B

Exemption Statement for Extending Validity Period of Holder Medical Certificates

GACA encourages medical certificate holders to have their medical certificates renewal on time if they and their AME are able to and it is safe to do so, whilst following Government precautionary procedures and Public Health Guidance.

Special Requirements:

1. Medical certificate holders who expired before this exemption date without revalidating their certificate cannot use this exemption.
2. Medical certificate holders who need to provide annual medical reports to their AME and/or the GACA Aviation Medicine Department in the normal way to maintain their certificatory status. These actions should continue, and medical certificate holders should make best endeavors to provide the reports as required.
3. Medical certificate holders who are under additional medical requirements (e.g. by their AME or the GACA Aviation Medicine) should continue to comply with the specified requirements (e.g. provision of reports) imposed by their AME or the GACA. Failure to do so may invalidate their medical certificate and/or the applicability of this exemption to them. If difficulties arise the certificate holder should contact his/her AME who may need to be advised by the GACA Aviation Medicine.
4. Where medical certificate holders need to send medical reports and tests to their AME this should be done by electronic means as AMEs (and the GACA Medical Assessor) are undertaking remote working.
5. In order for holders with expiring medical certificates to obtain new medical certificates without being exposed to the risk of transmission of the virus through personal contact between AMEs and the medical certificate holders, It is possible to use available communication technology for contacting each other (Telemedicine, Telehealth,...etc..).
6. Where a medical certificate holder has difficulties that cannot be overcome in the short term, they should contact their AME who may be able to grant an

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extension of the medical certificate validity up to end of this exemption date (After final approval of GACA Aviation Medicine Department). Any further extension requests or management of complex cases will be referred to the GACA.

7. Medical Certificate Holders should carry their (expired) medical certificate and a copy of the exemption notice as part of their Medical Certificate.
8. All operators should regularly submit a spreadsheet to the GACA notifying the POI of all medical certificate holders who need this exemption and shall be re-prioritized on a safety and emergency need basis.