

GACA Regulatory Exemption No. 2021-001-011

Based on the Saudi Arabian Civil Aviation Law (Royal Decree No. M/44) and the delegation of responsibilities to the President of GACA for the administration of regulatory policy in the sector of civil aviation, and in reference to the most recent ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) regarding the aviation safety-related measures for the safe return of international civil aviation post the COVID-19 pandemic, the President is, hereby, granting this Regulatory Exemption to provide specific reliefs to all GACA Certificated Air Operator, with the exception of Part-121 Scheduled Operators, from certain requirements pertaining to their crewmembers' certificates, training and qualification requirements for conducting domestic operations within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, subject to the conditions and limitations prescribed in this Exemption.

1. Applicability:

- 1.1 This exemption is applicable to all GACA Certificated Air Operators except for Part-121 Scheduled Air Operators.
- 1.2 This Exemption is valid while operating within the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its aerodromes.
- 1.3 This exemption does not provide any relief from Crew Members Initial, Transition or Upgrade training requirements under the applicable GACARs.
- 1.4 GACA Certificated Air Operators shall develop their own Safety Risk Assessments including the required and suitable mitigations and control measures before utilizing the privileges of this exemption.

2. Purpose:

This exemption provides certain regulatory reliefs for GACA Certificated Air Operators with the exception of Part-121 Scheduled Operators, from certain aircrew regulatory requirements pertaining to the continuous training and checking that cannot be fully complied with due to international difficulties faced regarding travel and health restrictions that limited the operators' capabilities in scheduling their aircrew for training and qualification sessions in training centers outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

3. Conditions and Limitations:

- 3.1 For GACA Certificated Air Operators to utilize reliefs provided by this exemption, each operator must provide GACA with its crew members training and qualification action plan before the end of April 2021.
- 3.2 Each GACA Certificated Air Operator wishing to utilize this exemption must:
 - 3.2.1 Develop its own Safety Risk Assessment including the required mitigations and submit it to GACA before utilizing the privileges of this exemption.
 - 3.2.2 Comply with all granted exemption conditions and limitations.
 - 3.2.3 Commit to its measures and mitigations and monitor the respective implementations by crew and ground staff.
 - 3.2.4 Plan to return the alleviated pilots to the required GACARs requirements at the earliest available opportunity.

GACA Regulatory Exemption No. 2021-001-011

- 3.2.5 Ensure that crewmembers receive a refresher training, followed by 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 as follows:
- 1) The refresher training could be done via briefings, leaflets, bulletins, CBT, video or any other means to fulfill the objectives set above.
 - 2) The assessment shall:
 - a. Include class or type specific abnormal and emergency procedures;
 - b. Be recorded in the crew member's training records, and
 - c. Be performed:
 - i. For FCMs, by a Check Pilot or a management personnel.
 - ii. For CCMs, by a Cabin Crew Supervisor.
- 3.3 Before each flight; FCMs shall review the SOPs and Emergency procedures; and Check the Aircraft Technical status carefully.
- 3.4 Air Operator's Risk Assessment must at least:
- 3.4.1 Address the potential severity of the pilot's competency deterioration related to the extended absence from flying duties.
 - 3.4.2 Consider the cumulative effect of other relevant alleviations, such as extension of pilot proficiency checks and lack of recency.
 - 3.4.3 Ensure the implementation of criteria to manage crew pairing.
 - 3.4.4 Take into consideration the aerodrome categorization.
- 3.5 The following training and checking requirements are alleviated for FSTDs located outside The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:
- 3.5.1 Recent experience § 121.769, § 125.347.
 - 3.5.2 Recurrent training § 121.919, § 125.349.
 - 3.5.3 Proficiency Check § 121.797, Instrument Proficiency Check § 125.353.
 - 3.5.4 Recurrent Training and Checking Requirements: Check Pilot (Aircraft), Check Pilot (Simulator) § 121.871
 - 3.5.5 Annual Training required by § 133.121(b)(3)(ii) through (v).

4. Validity:

This exemption is valid until June 31st, 2021 unless sooner cancelled or rescinded.



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