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# GACA Regulatory Exemption

2020-8-1-177

This GACA Regulatory  
Exemption

has been superseded by  
GACA Regulatory Exemption

2020-8-1AP-117

## **GACA Regulatory Exemption No. 2020-8-1-117**

In the matter of the petition of Saudi Arabian Airlines, referred to hereinafter as “Saudia” (AOC-SVAAC001, petition ref-42/211/02/11901130 dated 24 August 2020) to be exempted from certain GACA regulations pertaining to Flight and Cabin Crew duty time and limitations in order to enable Saudia to resume long haul commercial operations under the worldwide COVID-19 restrictions, 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 after considering the assessment report received from the Assistant President of Aviation Standards (ref 2020-8-1A), the President is, hereby, granting this exemption to Saudia with the conditions and limitations hereinafter .

### **1. Applicability.**

- 1.1. Based on Saudia’s (SVAAC001) request letter number 42/211/02/11901130 dated 24 August 2020 to be exempted from GACAR 117.11 (a)(3), 117.17(a) through (d) and 121.1041(a); this exemption is issued and shall be applicable for the following types of aircraft:
  - a) B777-F. (Cargo aircraft)
  - b) B777-300, B787. (Passenger aircraft)
- 1.2. Saudia shall ensure implementation of the mitigation measures listed in their provided Safety Risk Assessment 20200825-FDPUL-FLT, 20200825-FDPPX-FLT and 20200825-FDPCG-FLT, and all conditions listed hereafter.

### **2. Flight Time Limitations.**

- 2.1. For cargo aircrafts:
  - a) Flights with four (4) Flight Crew Members: Are not allowed under this exemption.
  - b) Flights with five (5) Flight Crew Members (or more): The maximum Flight Time Limitation is twenty-three (23) hours.
- 2.2. For passenger aircrafts:
  - a) Flights with four (4) Flight Crew Members: Are not allowed under this exemption.
  - b) Flights with six (6) Flight Crew Members: The maximum Flight Time Limitation is twenty-eight (28) hours.
  - c) Flights with eight (8) Flight Crew Members: The maximum Flight Time Limitation is thirty-four (34) hours.

### **3. Flight Duty Period Limitations.**

- 3.1. For cargo aircrafts:
  - a) Flights with four (4) Flight Crew Members are not allowed under this exemption.
  - b) Flights with five (5) Flight Crew Members (or more): The maximum Flight Duty Period is twenty-nine (29) hours.
- 3.2. For passenger aircraft:
  - a) Flights with four (4) Flight Crew Members are not allowed under this exemption.

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- b) Flights with six (6) Flight Crew Members: The maximum Flight Duty Period is thirty-five (35) hours.
- c) Flights with eight (8) Flight Crew Members: The maximum Flight Duty Period is forty (40) hours

### **4. Flight Duty Period Extension.**

- a) Extension under GACAR 117.19 (a) is not allowed under this exemption.

### **5. Reserve Status.**

- a) Reserve Flight Crew Member for flights under this exemption shall be provided with at least twenty-four (24) hours pre-flight Rest.
- b) The total number of hours a flight crew member may spend in a flight duty period and a reserve availability period may not exceed forty-four (44) hours, as measured from the beginning of the reserve availability period.
- c) Unless mutually agreed, reserve Flight Crew Members called to operate under this exemption shall not operate first.

### **6. Rest Period.**

#### **6.1. Pre-flight:**

- a) For flights with less than six (6) Flight Crew Members, pre-flight rest shall be at least forty-eight (48) hours at home base.
- b) For flights with six (6) Flight Crew Members or more, pre-flight rest shall be at least twenty-four (24) hours at home base.
- c) Additionally, All Flight Crew Members shall be provided with at least fourteen (14) hour rest when they are planned for layover in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### **6.2. Post-flight:**

- a) For flights with less than six (6) Flight Crew Members, post-flight rest shall be at least seventy-two (72) hours at home base.
- b) For flights with six (6) Flight Crew Members or more, post-flight rest shall be at least fifty-six (56) hours at home base.

### **7. Cabin Crew Members.**

#### **7.1. Cabin Crew Member complement:**

- a) No Cabin Crew Members are required on Cargo Aircraft.
- b) One (1) augmented crew complement shall be assigned to each sector with passenger load. For sectors with no passenger load the following shall be assigned:
  - 1) Four (4) Cabin Crew Members are required when the duty period exceeds thirty-five (35) hours.
  - 2) Three (3) Cabin Crew Members are required when the duty period is thirty-five (35) hours or less.

#### **7.2. Duty period for all Cabin Crew Members shall be limited to 40 hours.**

#### **7.3. Pre-flight rest shall be at least twenty-four (24) hours including reserve Cabin Crew Members.**



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7.4. Post-flight rest shall be at least forty-eight (48) hours.

### **8. Additional Conditions and Limitations.**

- 8.1. Flight Crew Member's age shall be limited to sixty (60) years (Gregorian).
- 8.2. B777-F crew complement under this exemption shall consist of three (3) PICs and two (2) SICs.
- 8.3. Crew should receive notification of duty as early as possible so they can plan for optimal rest.
- 8.4. Rest Facilities:
  - a) General.
    - 1) Priority should be given to aircraft with Class 1 rest facilities.
    - 2) Class 2 or Class 3 rest facilities shall be isolated from passengers by at least a curtain and are not adjacent to seats occupied by passengers.
    - 3) On passenger aircraft, the front zone; twelve (12) seats shall be used for crew rest.
  - b) On-ground rest using the rest facilities is restricted to the following:
    - 1) Shall provide at least 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep opportunity.
    - 2) Means to provide electrical supply and temperature control to the aircraft must be ensured.
    - 3) No loading or servicing of the aircraft will take place.
    - 4) It will not be planned as a part of the pairing (operations with passenger aircraft).
- 8.5. This exemption is limited to two (2) sectors except for emergency, technical, or weather diversions.
- 8.6. Saudia shall not schedule any Flight Crew Member for more than two (2) duty allocations per calendar month under operations utilizing this exemption.
- 8.7. This exemption is limited to augmented crew operations.
- 8.8. No exemption is granted from GACAR §117.23 "Cumulative Limitations".
- 8.9. Crew Members must be acclimatized to home base.
- 8.10. Risk Assessment.
  - a) Saudia shall identify and implement other mitigations following its Operation Specific Risk Assessment.
  - b) Saudia shall carry out enhanced monitoring and analysis of Flight Data Monitoring, Aviation Safety Reports/Mandatory Occurrence Reports, and crew fatigue reports generated during exempted operations to have a better understanding of the impact on crew fatigue. Actions will be taken to address any issues identified by this exercise without delay.
- 8.11. This exemption is applicable to Destinations and Operational Conditions as specified in the attached Appendix.
- 8.12. Reports: A weekly briefing shall be provided by Saudia Director of Flight Operations and Director of Safety to GACA covering, but not limited to:
  - 1) Airports Return to Normal Operations' (RNO) development of conditions.
  - 2) Specific Risk Assessment for Operation conducted under this exemption.

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- 3) Flight Data Monitoring, Aviation Safety Reports/Mandatory Occurrence Reports, and crew fatigue reports.
- 4) MOH updated protocols.

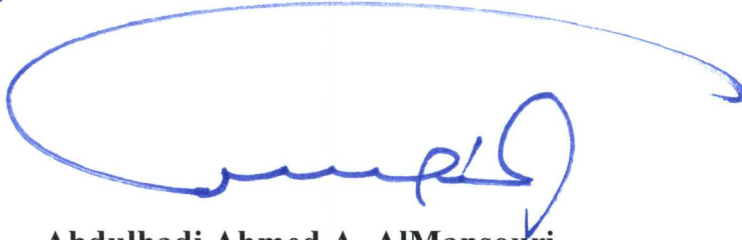
8.13. Saudia shall be subject to an enhanced oversight of the granted exemption.

8.14. GACA will closely monitor the development of conditions justifying the need for exemptions and will rescind this exemption as these conditions cease to prevail.

8.15. In case of crew layover due to circumstances beyond control, upon return to home base, the crew will comply with the current established protocols as determined by MOH.

### **9. Validity.**

This exemption is valid until **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020** provided all requirements in this exemption are complied with.



**Abdulhadi Ahmed A. AlMansouri**  
**President of General Authority of Civil Aviation**

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**10. Appendix.**

No	Risk Assessment		Destination		Status	Window of Departure	Remarks
	Number	Date	IATA	ICAO			
1.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	BSB	SBBR	Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
2.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	CAN		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
3.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	CGK		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
4.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	HKG		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
5.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	IAD		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
6.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	IAH		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
7.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	ICN		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
8.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	JFK		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
9.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	KUL		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
10.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	LAX		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
11.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	MNL		Allowed		



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	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20				0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
12.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	NRT		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
13.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	ORD		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
14.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	PEK		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
15.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	PVG		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
16.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	SGN		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
17.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	SIN		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
18.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	SYD		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
19.	20200825-FDPPX-FLT	25AUG20	YYZ		Allowed	0001-2359* / 0630-1959**	
	20200825-FDPCG-FLT	25AUG20					
20.			---				
Approval date and stamp:							

\* passenger aircraft      \*\* cargo aircraft