



# SAFETY DECISION 2020-01 (**ISSUE 13**)

## Q&A GUIDANCE FOR FOREIGN OPERATORS

### REVISION 04

### ISSUE DATE: 19 APRIL 2020

#### DISCLAIMER:

1. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT CONCERNS FOREIGN AIRCRAFT ONLY.
2. FOR ANY ENQUIRY RELATED TO FOREIGN AIRCRAFT, THAT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THIS DOCUMENT, KINDLY CONTACT FOREIGN OPERATORS AFFAIRS AT E-MAIL: [FOA@GCAA.GOV.AE](mailto:FOA@GCAA.GOV.AE).
3. **UAE OPERATORS SHALL CONTACT THEIR UAE GCAA PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR.**
4. THIS GUIDANCE IS BASED ON **ISSUE 13** OF THE SAFETY DECISION 2020-01, AND STANDS VALID ON THIS DATE (19 APRIL 2020).
5. THE INTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO GUIDE THE INDUSTRY ON QUERIES RELATED TO THE CURRENT FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN THE UAE, DUE TO CORONAVIRUS SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
6. THE UAE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING THE SITUATION. IN CASE OF ANY CHANGES, THE UAE GCAA WILL PUBLISH A NEW ISSUE OF SAFETY DECISION 2020-01, THAT IS AVAILABLE ON THE UAE GCAA WEBSITE ([WWW.GCAA.GOV.AE](http://WWW.GCAA.GOV.AE)) > E-PUBLICATION > SAFETY DECISION > [SAFETY DECISION 2020-01](#).
7. THE UAE GCAA WILL INFORM THE INDUSTRY OF ANY NEW UPDATES TO THIS DOCUMENT. CHANGES WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY A REVISION BAR. HOWEVER, THE UAE GCAA ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY, IN CASE COMMUNICATION OF SUCH INFORMATION IS DELAYED.
8. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OPERATORS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LATEST [SAFETY DECISION 2020-01](#), NOTAMS, AIPS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS PUBLISHED BY THE UAE GCAA, TO ALL GCAA SUBSCRIBERS AND THE INDUSTRY.



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## 1. General Information

### a) How can I obtain the required approval from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC)?

You are requested to approach MOFAIC through diplomatic channels, and obtain such approval by email or phone ONLY.

Contact details for MOFAIC are provided below:

**Email:** [evacuation@mofaic.gov.ae](mailto:evacuation@mofaic.gov.ae)

**Telephone:** +97124931020

**Note 1:** Direct requests from operators, will not be processed by MOFAIC.

### b) Are there any additional requirements with regards to the declaration of person(s) on board?

Yes, operators are required to:

- i) declare all PERSONS ON BOARD (including crew) information to the National Advance Information Center (NAIC), at least 24 hours prior to the flight;
- ii) ensure only crew necessary for the flight are onboard, or otherwise, as mentioned in [subpart 4\(b\)](#);
- iii) coordinate with the appropriate Airport Authority before each flight; and
- iv) ensure that all crew/persons on-board comply with COVID-19 related UAE Public Health Authority Requirements.

### c) How can I contact the National Advance Information Center (NAIC), for declaration of person(s) on board?

Contact details for NAIC, are provided below:

**Email:** [APIUAECallCenter@manafth.ae](mailto:APIUAECallCenter@manafth.ae)

**Call Center:** 00971 800274823

### d) Layovers

- i) Cargo Flights: allowed, only if the flight is limited to crew and personnel required for the operation of the intended flight.
- ii) Evacuation/Repatriation Flights: approval for operation and layover shall be taken from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC)
- iii) Technical Stops: not allowed

**Note 2:** in case of layovers, the crew shall fulfil the conditions mentioned in the latest published [Safety Decision 2020-01](#). Furthermore, the Operator is required to coordinate with the Airport Authority, for all the necessary crew requirements (including necessary health checks in accordance with the UAE Public Health Authority). Prior arrangement shall be made with the arrival airport, in the UAE, for acceptance of layover and to ensure proper facilities for crew rest are available.



**Note 3:** Flights under a diplomatic clearance shall be compliant with COVID-19 requirements. In case of layovers (cargo flights excluded), a specific approval is required from MOFAIC.

## **2. Aircraft in state of emergency (as per international standards)**

### **a) What do you mean by an Aircraft in a state of emergency?**

The UAE GCAA follows ICAO Annexes, Standards and Recommended Practices; please refer to ICAO for the definition of Emergency Landings.

## **3. Operations related to medical flights for the purpose of transporting UAE nationals only**

### **a) I am planning to operate a medevac flight, for the purpose of transporting a UAE National to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed provided your operation is in compliance with the latest issue of Safety Decision 2020-01, that is available on the UAE GCAA website ([www.gcaa.gov.ae](http://www.gcaa.gov.ae)) > E-publication > Safety Decision > [Safety Decision 2020-01](#).

You are required to coordinate with the Airport Authority for all the necessary requirements for the passengers and crew.

### **b) I am planning to operate a medevac flight, for the purpose of transporting a UAE National out of the UAE. Am I allowed?**

You may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) through diplomatic channels, for approval.

### **c) I am planning to operate a medevac flight (ferry inbound), for the purpose of transporting a Non-UAE National out of the UAE. Am I allowed?**

You may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC), through diplomatic channels, for approval.

### **d) My medevac aircraft is at a UAE Airport, and I am planning to operate a flight (outbound), for the purpose of transporting a Non-UAE National out of the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed, provided only Non-UAE Nationals are onboard your flight.

You are required to coordinate with the Airport Authority for all the necessary requirements for the passengers and crew.

**Note 4:** Foreign (non-A6) registered aircraft are not allowed to return to the UAE. In case you would like to return a Non-A6 registered aircraft to the UAE, you may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (UAE MOFAIC) through diplomatic channels, for approval.



#### **4. Technical landings and repositioning where passengers do not disembark**

**Note 5:** The same restrictions shall apply to crew unless it is for the purpose of a walk-around inspection and preparation of the intended flight, provided that all precautionary measures are in place to ensure limited interaction with other persons;

##### **a) I am planning to operate an aircraft for the purpose of a technical stop in the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed. However, you shall ensure that no passengers are allowed to disembark/embark the aircraft. The same restrictions shall apply to the crew who are not allowed to disembark/embark the aircraft, unless it is for the purpose of a walk-around inspection and/or preparation of the intended flight. It is the responsibility of the Operator to place precautionary measures, to ensure limited interaction with any other persons.

##### **b) I am planning to operate an aircraft to the UAE, with an extra set of crew, for the purpose of operating another aircraft parked in the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed. However, the crew that will operate the aircraft parked in UAE, may disembark for the purpose of transportation to the concerned aircraft within the same airport only. The Operator shall ensure that the crew are not allowed to exit the airport, and no passengers are allowed to disembark/embark the aircraft. The same restrictions shall apply to the crew operating the inbound flight who are not allowed to disembark/embark the aircraft, unless it is for the purpose of a walk-around inspection and/or preparation of the intended flight. It is the responsibility of the Operator to place precautionary measures, to ensure limited interaction with any other persons.

#### **5. Aircraft operated for the purpose of evacuation**

##### **a) I am planning to operate a flight for the purpose of transporting UAE Nationals to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

You may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC), through diplomatic channels, for approval.

##### **b) I am planning to operate a flight for the purpose of transporting UAE and Non-UAE Nationals to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

No, your flight is not allowed, for transporting non-UAE Nationals to the UAE.

However, if you would like to proceed with transporting UAE Nationals (inbound) only, your flight may be allowed (refer to [subpart 5.a](#)) above).

##### **c) I am planning to operate a flight for the purpose of transporting Non-UAE Nationals to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

No, your flight is not allowed.



**d) I am planning to operate a ferry flight to the UAE, for the purpose of transporting Non-UAE Nationals out of the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Requests may only be accepted in case of evacuation/repatriation. You may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC), through diplomatic channels, for approval.

**e) My aircraft is at a UAE airport, and I am planning to operate a flight for the purpose of transporting Non-UAE Nationals out of the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed, provided only Non-UAE Nationals are onboard your flight.

You are required to coordinate with the Airport Authority for all the necessary requirements for the passengers and crew.

**Note 6:** Foreign (non-A6) registered aircraft are not allowed to return to the UAE even if the GCAA has issued any basing or parking authorisation. In case you would like to return a Non-A6 registered aircraft to the UAE, you may contact UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (UAE MOFAIC) through diplomatic channels, for approval.

## **6. Domestic Flights**

All domestic flights are allowed, provided they are essential, as identified in [Safety Decision 2020-13](#).

**Note 7:** If the preceding flight was an international flight (depending on the nature of the flight [passenger, cargo, medical evacuation, etc.] refer to the appropriate section within this document, for information on approvals for international flights) and in case of embark/disembark of passengers and crew, the final destination airport (arrival airport) in the UAE, shall be notified prior to the flight for necessary arrangements and compliance with UAE Public Health Authority requirements. Passengers and crew shall only disembark at the arrival airport, where necessary arrangements have been made.

**Note 8:** Compliance shall be ensured at all times, with the latest issue of Safety Decision 2020-01, that is available on the UAE GCAA website ([www.gcaa.gov.ae](http://www.gcaa.gov.ae)) > E-publication > Safety Decision > [Safety Decision 2020-01 and Safety Decision 2020-13](#).

## **7. Overflights**

All flights over UAE territory, are allowed, with no restrictions; unless restriction other than COVID-19, is applicable.

## **8. Cargo Flights**

**a) I am planning to operate an aircraft from an airport located in the Province of Hubei in the People's Republic of China or the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

No, your flight is not allowed.



- b) I am planning to operate an aircraft from an airport NOT located in the Province of Hubei in the People's Republic of China or the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the UAE. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed provided your operation is in compliance with the latest issue of Safety Decision 2020-01, that is available on the UAE GCAA website ([www.gcaa.gov.ae](http://www.gcaa.gov.ae)) > E-publication > Safety Decision > [Safety Decision 2020-01](#).

- c) I am planning to operate a cargo flight to the UAE, using a passenger aircraft. Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed, provided the aircraft does not carry passengers and your operation is in compliance with the latest issue of Safety Decision 2020-01, that is available on the UAE GCAA website ([www.gcaa.gov.ae](http://www.gcaa.gov.ae)) > E-publication > Safety Decision > [Safety Decision 2020-01](#)

**Note 9:** In case of transportation of passengers (inbound or outbound), using a cargo flight with a passenger aircraft, the same guidance/requirements that are mentioned in [Section 5](#), are applicable.

## **9. Maintenance/Parking in UAE**

- a) I am planning to operate an aircraft to the UAE, for the purpose of maintenance or parking in the UAE (Arrival Request). Am I allowed?**

No, the flight requires prior approval.

- b) My aircraft is in the UAE, under a maintenance or parking arrangement. I am planning to operate the aircraft out of the UAE (Departure Request). Am I allowed?**

Yes, your flight is allowed provided no person other than the crew required for the intended flight are carried on board.

However, foreign (non-A6) registered aircraft are not allowed to return to the UAE even if the GCAA has issued any basing or parking authorisation.

## **10. Private Aircraft**

The same conditions as mentioned above within this document, apply to all private foreign registered aircraft. No foreign registered aircraft, that is outside the UAE, can operate to the UAE, even if the GCAA has issued an NOC or authorization to the aircraft/operator, unless approval has been granted by MOFAIC through diplomatic channels, or the flight is for the purpose of a technical stop; please refer to [Section 4](#), for details on technical stops, and applicable conditions for passengers and crew.