



## **SAFETY DECISION 2020-04**

**Issue 02**

**Date of Issue: April 7, 2020**

### **SUBJECT:**

FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS FOR FLIGHT CREW, CABIN CREW AND FLIGHT DISPATCHER

### **REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:**

SAFETY DECISION 2020-01

### **APPLICABILITY:**

This Safety Decision shall be applicable up to 30 November 2020, unless otherwise specified.

This SAFETY DECISION does not apply to licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsement that have expired prior to 19 March 2020.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The socio-economic impact of the novel coronavirus is yet to be assessed. It has already resulted in drastic restrictions and arrangements preventing licence holders from timely completing the necessary training and checking or medical evaluation etc... hence ensuring that their ratings and other privileges are revalidated prior to expiry.

As a result of the aforementioned unforeseen circumstances, the GCAA:

- a) found it necessary to reduce the severity of the disruptions; and
- b) presents an immediate response to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak while assuring an acceptable level of safety.

This Safety Decision is issued to adopt additional provisions to:

- a) provide flexibility to CAR-FCL, CAR-CC, and Flight Dispatcher licence holders (requirements No. 1 and No. 2);
- b) defer the GCAA fee payments up to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (requirement No. 3); and
- c) allow issuance of approval or other authorisations by email, without signature or stamp (requirement No. 4).

Note: Other flexibility provisions covered in ISSUE 01 of this Safety Decision will be governed by separate and specific SAFETY DECISIONS; meanwhile any extension issued based on ISSUE 01 of this SD shall remain valid, unless otherwise revoked by the specific SD.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

- a) **If any other flexibility provision is sought, organisations shall communicate the same to their principal inspector for future consideration.**
- b) **This SAFETY DISCISION has been approved electronic by HE the Director General of the GCAA – hence it does not bear any stamp or signature. To verify its authenticity, anyone can check on GCAA website: [https://www.gcaa.gov.ae/en/ePublication/Pages/OperationalDirectives.aspx?CertID=\(DIR\)](https://www.gcaa.gov.ae/en/ePublication/Pages/OperationalDirectives.aspx?CertID=(DIR)).**
- c) **Once activities return to normal, the GCAA will process any expired certificate, licence, rating, etc. extended using this SAFETY DECISION using normal e-services platform and provided that the extension was issued in accordance with the SAFETY DECISION.**



## REQUIREMENTS:

### REQUIREMENT NO. 1:

Subject to fulfilling the applicable mitigating conditions as specified in Requirement No. 2, with regard to Flight Crew, Cabin Crew, and Flight Dispatcher licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements issued by the GCAA, all of the following shall apply:

a) licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements issued in accordance with CAR-FCL and CAR-CC: Provided that the regular validity period expires before or on 31 July 2020, that validity period may be extended as follows:

i) by 4 months, in the case of:

- 1) licences, ratings and ELP issued under the provisions of CAR FCL for operation on aircraft registered in the UAE
- 2) Cabin crew licences and ratings.

ii) until the end of the application of this Safety Decision, in the case of instructor and examiner ratings/approvals issued under the provisions of CAR FCL and CAR-CC;

Towards the end of the 4-month period specified in point (i), the GCAA will reassess the situation and decide if the validity period may be further extended for a period of up to 4 months or by the end of the application of this Safety Decision, whichever comes first.

b) Training and checking in accordance with CAR-OPS 1/3 and CAR-CC:

Provided that the regular validity period of training and checking, as set out in the applicable training and checking requirements of CAR-OPS 1/3 and CAR-CC, expires before or on 31 July 2020, that validity period of all of the following may be extended by 4 months:

- i) operator proficiency checks (OPC) and line checks in accordance with CAR-OPS 1.965 or CAR-OPS 3.965;
- ii) line-oriented evaluation in accordance with point CAR-OPS 1.978, if applicable;
- iii) operator emergency and safety equipment training and checking in accordance with CAR-OPS 1.965 or CAR-OPS 3.965;
- iv) operator ground and flight training in accordance with CAR-OPS 1.965 or CAR-OPS 3.965;
- v) operator cabin crew recurrent training and checking in accordance with CAR-OPS 1.1015 and CAR-OPS 1.1020;
- vi) operator recurrent training for crew other than above mentioned, in accordance with applicable provisions of CAR-OPS 1 or CAR-OPS 3.
- vii) operator cabin crew member recurrent training and checking

Towards the end of the 4-month period, the GCAA will reassess the situation and decide if the validity period of relevant training and checking may be further extended for a period of up to 4 months or by the end of the application of this Safety Decision, whichever date comes first.

c) Flight Dispatcher licences, instructors and examiners issued in accordance with CAR Part II, Chapter 6:



Provided that the regular validity period of the licence and recurrent training and checking expires before or on 31 July 2020, that validity period may be extended by 4 months.

Towards the end of the 4-month period, the GCAA will reassess the situation and decide if the validity period of the rating or certificate may be further extended for a period of up to 4 months or by the end of the application of this Safety Decision, whichever comes first.

**REQUIREMENT NO. 2:**

The applicable mitigating conditions shall be complied to allow validity extension as stipulated under Requirement No. 1, above:

- a) CAR-FCL licence holders shall comply with all of the following:
  - i) they shall hold a valid and current licence, rating, certificate, authorisations, and endorsement issued under the provisions of CAR FCL. Previously expired licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements are not eligible for extension as per this Safety decision.
  - ii) they shall operate under the management system of an organisation;
  - iii) they shall have received 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 are maintained. That assessment shall include class- or type-specific abnormal and emergency procedures;
  - iv) upon successful completion of the refresher training and the assessment as per point (iii), either the GCAA or an appropriately qualified examiner nominated by the operator shall issue a letter of extension as per point f)i).
- b) CAR-FCL instructor and examiner certificate holders shall hold a valid instructor and examiner certificate. The GCAA or an appropriately qualified Examiner nominated by the operator shall issue a letter of extension as per point f)i).
- c) Flight Dispatcher and Cabin crew licence holders shall comply with all of the following:
  - i) they shall operate under the management system of an organisation;
  - ii) they shall have received refresher training, followed by the completion of an assessment by means established by the operator to determine that the required level of knowledge is maintained. That assessment shall include abnormal and emergency procedures;
  - iii) upon successful completion of the refresher training and the assessment as per point (iii), either the GCAA or an appropriately qualified examiner nominated by the operator shall issue a letter of extension as per point f)i).
- d) Flight Dispatcher instructors and examiners certificate holders shall hold a valid instructor and examiner approval. The GCAA or an appropriately qualified examiner nominated by the operator shall issue a letter of extension as per point f)i).
- e) Cabin crew instructors and examiners certificate holders shall hold a valid instructor and, if applicable, a valid examiner certificate. The GCAA or an appropriately qualified examiner nominated by the operator shall issue a letter of extension as per point f)i).

f) Recording of extension of licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements issued by GCAA:



- i) The letter of extension required shall contain the following statement, unless different wording is acceptable to the GCAA:

*“This letter is issued to confirm that, (Captain)(Mr/MS)(Name) complies with requirements No.2 a) (i), (ii) and (iii) of Safety Decision 2020-04 FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS adopted by the GCAA to address the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, his/her licence, rating, certificate, authorisation, and endorsement (as appropriate) are extended by 4 months from the date of expiry.*

*Due to current restrictions preventing a physical endorsement, this letter is issued in lieu of the licence alteration and all dates that expired after 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 shall be considered extended by 4 calendar months”.*

- ii) For extension other than points a)iv), b), c)iii), d) and e), the operator may nominate the PH Training or another person to issue the extension.
- g) Air Operators shall comply with all of the following:
- i) No physical alternation of a licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements issued by the GCAA shall be made;
- An accurate record-keeping system is established for those licences, ratings, certificates, authorisations, and endorsements extended. A monthly report shall be provide to their respective GCAA FOI;
- ii) the operator shall determine which aviation personnel holding a licences, ratings, and certificates issued by the GCAA is eligible for extension as per Requirement No. 1. Such determination shall be based on a risk assessment with due consideration of operational needs, unavailability of resources to conduct renewal or revalidation of licences, ratings, and certificates as per applicable CAR, and current national and international precautions measures related to COVID-19.
- iii) the operator shall ensure that flight crew comply with point a) and point b) as applicable;
- iv) the operator shall ensure that cabin crew comply with point c) and point e) as applicable;
- v) the operator shall ensure that flight dispatcher comply with point c) and point d) as applicable;
- vi) the operator shall ensure that extensions are issued in accordance with point f);
- vii) in case of operator emergency and safety equipment training and checking, ground and flight training, cabin crew recurrent training and checking, other crew recurrent training, technical crew recurrent training and crew resource management recurrent training in accordance with CAR-OPS 1/3, CAR-CC and CAR PART II Chapter 6 as applicable, the operator shall ensure all members complete additional training through any means.
- Note: The intent of “through any means” is that operators provide additional training to licence holders in order to compensate for the extended validity of the different training elements of CAR-OPS, CAR-CC and CAR PART II Chapter 6 as applicable. This could be done for example via briefing/leaflet/bulletin/CBT/video.

### **REQUIREMENT NO. 3:**

Payment of fees related to GCAA services for aviation safety activities shall be deferred up to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.



**REQUIREMENT NO. 4:**

Due to the current circumstance, certificates or other authorisations will only be processed by email and will not require a signature and/or stamp. Operators/Individuals are required to coordinate with concerned GCAA department

**CONTACT:**

Further instructions or guidance may be obtained through:

- a) UAE operators: [fops@gcaa.gov.ae](mailto:fops@gcaa.gov.ae)
- b) Air Crew (Pilot's and flight dispatcher) Licensing matters: [aircrewlicensing@gcaa.gov.ae](mailto:aircrewlicensing@gcaa.gov.ae)