

16 July 2020

INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUE

The SACAA is responsible for conducting oversight, monitoring and enforcing the Covid-19 Regulations that were issued by the Minister of Transport on 18 March 2020, as well as subsequent versions and associated guidelines.

The Director of Civil Aviation has issued several general exemptions of which the latest was distributed on 05 July 2020. The exemption addresses various civil aviation activities. Kindly refer to this exemption for more information.

Since the national lockdown, limited civil aviation activities were permitted such as the repatriation and evacuation of foreign nationals and SA citizens respectively as well as cargo and charter operations operating within defined parameters.

More civil aviation activities are gradually opening and below is some important information to assist the industry engage the Regulator in the coming weeks. As a result of the gradual reopening of the industry, the SACAA is dealing with the backlog in various service areas such as examinations, licence applications and the application of Certificates of Airworthiness. Below please find some key information on these aspects.

1. Writing of Civil Aviation Personnel License Examinations

The SACAA reopened the exam centre at the Midrand Office on 02 June 2020 and the Training schools were also reopened by the Minister during level 3 of the lockdown. The exam centers must adhere to the social distancing and other Covid-19 health and safety regulations and guidelines.

Due to the social distancing requirements, the Midrand exam centre cannot accommodate the same number of students as before. This has put tremendous pressure on the system and the SACAA addressed this by adding additional seats per exam session to deal with the back log that built up during the lockdown period. This

means that the SACAA can now accommodate 40 students per exam seating which is lower than the normal 50 seats.

The SACAA will open outstation examination centers as follows:

- Cape Town: 03 to 07 August 2020
- Durban: 03 to 07 August 2020
- Port Elizabeth: 10 to 19 August 2020.

Communication in relation to the above must be directed to the following Manager:

- Examinations: Paul Phooko Cell: 066 470 2822, email: phookop@caa.co.za.

2. Personnel Licences

The SACAA is experiencing a high volume of calls and queries from industry relating to their licence applications. The majority of these queries emanate from non-compliant applications. Please note that the SACAA is handling the backlog based on the date the applications were received.

Licence holders whose licences expired outside the published exemption period are required to apply for individual exemptions from the Director.

Guidance material on how to apply for an exemption, the information that must accompany the application as well as the process to be followed can be found on the CAA website: www.caa.co.za.

Communication in relation to the above must be directed to the Manager:

- Licensing: Neo Gouwe Cell: 083 461 6414, email: gouwene@caa.co.za; and

3. Certificate of Airworthiness, Inspections and renewals

- All existing operators/owners intending to renew their certificate of airworthiness (C of A) during this period must submit applications and proof of payment electronically to currencyfees@caa.co.za.
- As usual, approvals will only be granted when payments are cleared.
- The SACAA is experiencing high call volumes and queries from industry relating their applications for certificate of airworthiness during this period. The majority of these queries are made by members who did not apply on time for their renewals. Please note that the SACAA is handling the backlog based on the period when the applications were received.
- Regulation 21.08.12A provides that the holder of a certificate of airworthiness must apply for renewal at least 60 days prior to the date of expiry of the

certificate. Adherence to this requirement will provide the SACAA enough time to process the high number of applications that are received.

4. Authority to Fly, Inspections and renewals

In relation to the renewal and issuance of Authority to Fly (ATF) the SACAA is introducing some improvements in the processing of applications to also address existing challenges. Following the migration of some of the functions previously conducted by RAASA, the migration has introduced new processes which were not previously part of the system.

Most applicants are experiencing this for the first time since these processes have migrated to the SACAA. While we acknowledge that this may have introduced what some may see as delays, these changes were and are important to improve the level of compliance and enhance safety in this sector of our industry.

We therefore urge all existing operators/owners intending to renew their authority to fly (ATF) during this period to submit their applications and proof of payment electronically to the following email address atf@caa.co.za.

Similarly, the holder of an authority to fly must apply for renewal at least 60 days prior to the date of expiry of the certificate.

Late applications cause a burden to the system and results in members complaining when their renewal applications are not processed or issued on time.

Communication in relation to the above may be directed to the relevant acting Senior Manager: Mr Lobang Thabantso, Acting Senior Manager: Airworthiness. Cell:083 461 6508, email: thabantsol@caa.co.za.

Conclusion

The SACAA would like to appeal to the industry to exercise patience as we gradually resolve the backlog that built up soon after the President announced the national state of disaster. The impact of the lockdown is experienced in all industries and the Regulator is therefore doing everything necessary to ensure that all the services are back on track.

Director of Civil Aviation
South African Civil Aviation Authority

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