

TCO authorisation

By means of a new European Regulation (Part-TCO) with applicability date on 26 May 2014, Europe centralises the process to authorise third-country (non-EU) operators performing commercial air transport operations into the EU. Part-TCO replaces the various schemes of the EASA Member States that are currently in place. Instead, a single safety authorisation is issued centrally by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). **Part-TCO harmonises and streamlines the authorisation process for foreign operators by introducing a single, proportionate and risk-based safety assessment performed by EASA.**

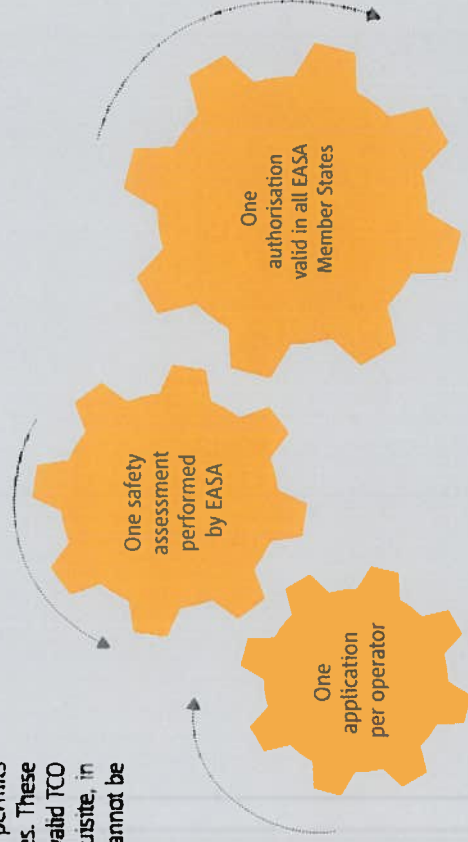
EASA TCO will take over the safety-related part of foreign operator assessment. Operating permits will continue to be issued by Member States. These remain an area of national responsibility. A valid TCO authorisation will be a mandatory prerequisite, in the absence of which an operating permit cannot be issued by a Member State.

Who needs a TCO authorisation?

Any foreign operator who intends to perform commercial air transport (CAT) operations to, from or within any of the following territories:

- **All EASA Member States** (Member States of the European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland); and
- **A number of other territories** in which European aviation rules apply.

A TCO authorisation is not required for operators only overflying the abovementioned territories without intended landing.



The authorisation process

The authorisation of third country operators validates the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) issued to a foreign air operator by its State's competent aviation authority in all EASA Member States.

The TCO authorisation document issued by EASA is accompanied by Technical Specifications that set out the scope of operations authorised in the EU.

The authorisation is based on EASA's level of confidence in the foreign AOC, as determined by the competence of its holder to discharge its responsibilities and the safety oversight capability of the certifying State. Assessment criteria are ICAO Standards applicable to air operators. Authorisations issued under Part-TCO are not subject to fees.

A web-interface serves as the sole communication platform; all relevant data to and from EASA are exchanged via this online tool. A list of authorised third-country operators will be made available on the EASA website. Non-European aviation authorities can apply for access to data of operators under their oversight. European aviation authorities and ramp inspectors have access to data of all authorised foreign operators.

Entry into force and transition period

Part-TCO is applicable as from 26 May 2014. A 30-month transition period ensures smooth implementation without interrupting international air operations of foreign air carriers to the EU. Air carriers that previously operated to the EU and already hold an operating permit issued by a European Member State can continue to do so. However, they must submit to EASA an application for a TCO authorisation within a 6-month application period until 26 November 2014.

EASA will determine, for each applicant, the time when that TCO assessment will be commenced within the transition period, which ends on 26 November 2016. Only for applications received before 26 November 2014 can EASA guarantee that the applicant operator is included in the authorisation sequence and the operation to the EU can be continued without interruption after the end of the transition period.

During the transition period, operators who upon entry-into-force of Part-TCO do not hold an operating permit can apply for such permit with the respective Member State in accordance with national procedures. In parallel they shall apply for a TCO authorisation with EASA.

After 26 November 2016, a valid TCO authorisation will be a mandatory prerequisite in the absence of which an operating permit cannot be issued by any EASA Member State.

Further information and regulatory material

Further information including "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) is available on the website <http://easa.europa.eu/TCO>. The TCO Regulation and the associated Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) issued by EASA are also available [here](#).

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EASA

Authorisation of Third Country Operators (TCO)

