

MEDIA STATEMENT

18 February 2021

SA Civil Aviation Authority statement on an SAA flight earmarked for Brussels

[Johannesburg] The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) was approached by the operator, South African Airways (SAA), with a request for an exemption relating to a flight to Brussels. The SACAA thoroughly considered the operator's request for the said exemption, and directed the operator to provide further details relating to some of the risk mitigating measures.

The concern that the SACAA had with the initial exemption application was in relation to the recency of their flight deck crew, whereby the applicant did not provide adequate details on mitigation measures. It is important to note that recency is a vital safety requirement for pilots as outlined in the Civil Aviation Regulations.

It must also be noted that the operator, i.e. SAA, had voluntarily ceased operations a while back. However, this does not mean that they had surrendered their Air Operator Certificate (AOC) to the SACAA. In that regard, their AOC remains valid even though they had put their operations temporarily on hold.

With that said, any operator who is not conducting regular flights, or their aircraft are not in regular service/operation for one reason or another, is expected to conduct the required maintenance on the aircraft, which may include preservation and return to service maintenance. To this end, SAA Technical remained operational to perform these maintenance tasks on SAA aircraft. Subsequently, SAA managed to address the concerns that were raised by the SACAA. As such, the exemption application was granted on 16 February 2021.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is a Schedule 3A public entity reporting to the Department of Transport established in terms of the Civil Aviation Authority Act, 2009 (Act No 13 of 2009) (the Act). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards. The SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board.

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