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PERSONNEL LICENSING

GENERAL

REMOTE PILOT LICENCE: TRAINING, EXAMINATION AND APPLICATION FOR RPL REQUIREMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 *This AIC has been formulated in order to deal with the training requirements, examinations and applications for Remote Pilot Licence (RPL). The AIC is intended to substantiate the provision of Part 101 and associated technical standards.*

2. GENERAL

- 2.1 *In terms of Part 101, the pilot conducting operations shall be appropriately trained on the UAS system and qualified for the area and type of operation as referred to in SA-CATS 101.*
- 2.2 *Unmanned aircraft are legitimate airspace users, however they need to integrate into national airspace in a safe manner and routine access to the national airspace system poses a variety of technological, regulatory, workload and coordination challenges. For everyone's safety, aviation is governed by stringent aviation regulations. Therefore a high level of professionalism is expected from the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operator.*
- 2.3 *In addition, the SACAA acknowledges that many entrepreneurs interested in obtaining an Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Operator Certificate (ROC) to provide aerial work services for example, real estate photography, academia etc, are not aviation professionals. As such, they have limited aviation backgrounds, and lack knowledge about existing flight and airspace regulations. To protect the safety of the public and for these individuals to become viable UAS operators, they need to be made aware of the requirements and the process. UAS operators in turn must be informed on the current regulations, policies and procedures to develop safe business practices in a similar fashion to professional "manned" aviation companies.*

3. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 *Only Flight Instructors and Designated Flight Examiners accepted by the Director and belonging to Aviation Training Organizations (ATOs) accepted by the Director to conduct Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) training may provide training towards proficiency in RPL.*
- 3.2 *Instructors utilised by an ATO for RPL training must hold, or have held in the preceding 12 months, a Flight Instructor Rating, or equivalent knowledge and capabilities as accepted by the Director.*
- 3.3 *ATOs are required to apply to the SACAA for acceptance to conduct training in RPL to be included on their operating certificates.*
- 3.4 *The training syllabuses and requirements for RPL are contained in the relevant sections of the SA-CATS 101.*

4. EXAMINATIONS

- 4.1 *Requirements for issue of an RPL are contained in SA-CATS 101.03.2 and in the TGM Part 101 – Personnel Licensing - and are not limited to:*
- (a) *a Medical assessment report*

- (b) an SACAA accepted theoretical knowledge examination; and
- (c) an SACAA accepted oral skills test (which may be carried out in a classroom, during an actual flight, in a Flight Simulation Training Device (FSTD) or a combination of the aforementioned).

4.2 The RPL theoretical knowledge examination must be conducted at a test center accredited by the Director. The pass mark is 75 %.

NOTE: THE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE MATERIAL FOR PART 101 – PERSONNEL LICENSING: CONTAINS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EXISTING RPL (e.g. MILITARY PILOTS), THE GRANTING OF INSTRUCTOR RATINGS, GRANTING INTERIM APPROVAL OF SYLLABI, SKILLS TESTS ACCEPTANCE, THEORY CREDITS FOR EXISTING PPL, CPL, ATPLs etc. AND RECENCY.

5. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SACAA BY THE CANDIDATE

5.1 Application for RPL must be submitted to:

South African Civil Aviation Authority
Licensing Department
Private Bag X73
Halfway House
1685

Apart from the requirements listed in Part 101, the application must include:

- (a) application form for the issue of SACAR Part 101 Pilot Licence or Rating CA 101.03.2
- (b) a letter of motivation;
- (c) a brief curriculum vitae;
- (d) an outline of the proposed oral test for each level requested; and
- (e) proof of payment of the fee as prescribed in AIC 006/2015.

6. RPL holders will be subject to oversight by the SACAA.

7. PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF RPL

- (a) RPLs are issued for a maximum period of 1 (ONE) calendar year, commencing from the date of issue
- (b) The Director may at any time suspend or cancel the licence should it be deemed necessary.

Note: This AIC must be read together with the applicable requirements of the Technical Guidance Material (TGM) for Part 101 - Personnel Licensing, CARs and CATS at all times.



DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION