



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2008**

**SOUTH AFRICA INTRODUCES NEW REGULATIONS FOR PILOT LICENSES**

For the first time in South African history, people as young as 16 years can now be issued with a Student Pilot License. This has been made possible by the newly introduced Part 61 of the South African Civil Aviation Regulations (CARS), which came into effect on 1 January 2008.

Prior to the introduction of this new set of regulations, South Africa's pilot licensing processes were governed by the old Air Navigation Regulations (ANRs) since 1976. The new regulations have therefore made it possible for people to enter the field of aviation as young as 16 years, which is generally considered a good age for someone to start training as a pilot.

The new regulations comply with international best practices and standards, and bring South Africa in line with other developed aviation countries, which have always allowed people to start training as pilots at the age of 16. Part 61 is also in line with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other reputable civil aviation authorities such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States.

Captain Colin Jordaan, the CEO of the South African Civil Aviation Authority and Commissioner for Civil Aviation, says he hopes that the new regulations will encourage more young people to consider flying as a career. He says, "South Africa's civil aviation industry has experienced exponential growth over the past 10 years, and this growth has to be matched by corresponding growth in experienced and licensed aviation personnel, particularly pilots. We need more young

people to be trained as pilots, if South Africa is to keep up with its growing aviation industry.”

South Africa is currently having just over 15 000 active pilots. Nonetheless, skills shortages in the aviation industry is still a big problem. This is not just a South African problem but a global phenomenon as well. Increased training of pilots in South Africa has therefore become a top priority, and it is hoped that the new regulations will open more doors for many young people to be trained as pilots.

### **SA’S FIRST 16-YEAR OLD OBTAINS A STUDENT PILOT LICENSE**

History was made today (Wednesday, 16 January 2008) when South Africa’s first 16-year old female, Winandi de Wet, was issued with a Student Pilot License by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). Winandi, who has been doing her Student Pilot License with the Brits Flight Training Centre since 26 November 2007, had her dreams come true when she became the country’s first 16-year old female to obtain a Student Pilot License.

Being in possession of a Student Pilot License has now opened a further opportunity for Winandi, who can now pursue a Private Pilot License (PPL), which forms the basis for future pilot qualifications. Winandi, who is a learner at Hartebeespoort High School, says she is very excited about her achievement. Her ultimate goal is to take up a career in aviation.

Mr Dale de Klerk, the CEO of Brits Flight Training Centre, said he was very proud of Winandi’s achievement. He said, “We hope this will inspire more young people to seriously consider pursuing a career as a pilot”.

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