


<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH AFRICAN</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p> <p>AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR</p>	<p>CAA Private Bag x 73 Halfway House 1685</p>
<p>Tel: (011) 545-1000 Fax: (011) 545-1465 E-Mail: mail@caa.co.za</p>		<p>AIC 30-9 15 DEC 2011</p>

PERSONNEL LICENSING

GENERAL

RADIOTELEPHONY CERTIFICATES (RTC): PILOTS – TRAINING AND EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☛ Indicates changes.
 - ☛ This AIC replaces AIC 30-9 dated 09-04-09.
- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 1.1 Radiotelephony (RT) provides the means by which pilots and ground personnel communicate with each other. A knowledge of the environment in which RT is used is essential, e.g. the different classifications of airspace. Used properly the information and instructions transmitted are of vital importance in assisting in the safe and expeditious operation of aircraft. On the other hand, the use of non-standard procedures and phraseology can cause misunderstandings. Incidents and accidents have occurred in which a contributing factor has been the misunderstanding caused by the use of poor phraseology. The importance of using correct and precise standard phraseology cannot be over-emphasised.
- 2. GENERAL**
- 2.1 In terms of section 30 of the Telecommunications Act 1996 (Act 103 of 1996), as amended, no person shall operate radio transmitting apparatus within South Africa, or on board any vessel or aircraft registered in South Africa, unless he/she has been authorised to do so. This authority was hitherto issued by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) but by mutual agreement has been controlled by the SACAA as from 1 May 2002.
- 2.2 The principle of two standards of certificates, namely a General and a Restricted Radiotelephony Certificate (RTC), has been retained but instead of carrying the certificate with the pilot licence, licences will be endorsed to reflect the authority to use radio apparatus on board aircraft when duly qualified to do so.
- 2.3 A General RTC is required for the issue of an Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot Licence or Airline Transport Pilot Licence.
- 2.4 A Restricted RTC is required for the issue of any other licence or certificate which requires the holder to operate radio transmitting apparatus, except that a student pilot undergoing training may operate radio apparatus onboard aircraft under the supervision of a qualified flight instructor. The onus will be on the flight instructor to ascertain that the student pilot has an adequate knowledge of radiotelephony procedures to undertake solo flights.
- ☛ 2.5 In the case of validations of licences issued by ICAO contracting States, the RTC accompanying or incorporated in the licence to be validated, will be endorsed in the validation. In cases of a pilot from a non- ICAO contracting State, the Director may require that the applicant undergo a proficiency test with a Radiotelephony Examiner (RTE).
- 3. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**
- ☛ 3.1 Only Aviation Training Organisations (ATOs) approved by the Director to conduct RT training may provide training towards proficiency in RT.
- ☛ 3.2 Instructors utilised by an ATO for RT training must hold, or have held in the preceding 36 months, at least a Grade II Flight Instructor Rating, or an ATS licence with an Aerodrome or higher rating, or equivalent knowledge and capabilities as approved by the Director.
- 3.3 ATOs are required to apply to the SACAA for approval to conduct training in RT to be included on their operating certificates.
- The application must include:
- (a) a detailed training programme which should comprise of a minimum of 8 (eight) hours classroom training;

- (b) a list of RT instructors and their qualifications;
 - (c) an example of a training file; and
 - (d) a sample theoretical knowledge examination for the Restricted RTC.
- 3.4 The training syllabuses and requirements for each of the RTCs are contained in the relevant sections of the SA CATS-FCL 61(in particular 61.03.1, 61.04.1, 61.05.1, 61.06.1 and 61.15.1).
4. **EXAMINATIONS**
- 4.1 RTC Examinations consist of two components:
- (a) a written theoretical knowledge examination (which may consist of multiple choice type questions, true or false type questions, completion of an ATS flight plan, etc.); and
 - (b) a practical skill test (which may be carried out in a classroom, during an actual flight or a combination of both.
- 4.2 Theoretical examinations for the Restricted RTC may be conducted by an approved ATO. The pass mark is 75%.
- 4.3 Theoretical examinations for the General RTC have been incorporated into the examinations for the Instrument Rating and Commercial Pilot licence.
- 4.4 Practical skill tests for the RTC may only be carried out by a (RTE) appointed by the Director.
5. **RADIOTELEPHONY EXAMINER (RTE) FOR THE PRACTICAL SKILL TESTS FOR THE RESTRICTED AND GENERAL RADIOTELEPHONY CERTIFICATES**
- 5.1 An applicant for approval as a Radiotelephony Examiner (RTE) to conduct skill tests for the Restricted RTC must hold an ICAO English Language Proficiency Level 6, and must be:
- (a) a suitably qualified Air Traffic Controller who holds a valid ATS licence with an Aerodrome or higher rating; or
 - (b) a Grade I Flight Instructor, or a Grade II Flight Instructor who meets at least the experience requirements of SA CAR 61.36.3 (1) or (6); or
 - (c) a person with the equivalent knowledge and capabilities as those indicated in (a) or (b) above, as approved by the Director.
- 5.2 An applicant for approval as a Radiotelephony Examiner (RTE) to conduct skill tests for the General RTC must hold an ICAO English Language Proficiency Level 6, and must be:
- (a) a suitably qualified Air Traffic Controller who holds a valid ATS licence with an Approach rating or higher; or
 - (b) a Designated Flight Examiner; or
 - (c) a person with the equivalent knowledge and capabilities as those indicated in (a) or (b) above, as approved by the Director.
- 5.3 Applications for approval as a RTE must be directed in writing to: SACAA, Testing Standards, Private Bag X73, Halfway House, 1685 (standards@caa.co.za).
- The application must include:
- (a) a letter of motivation;
 - (b) an outline of the proposed skill test at each level requested; and
 - (c) proof of payment of the fee as prescribed in CAR Part 187.
- 5.4 RTEs may be subject to oversight by the SACAA.
6. **PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF APPROVAL**
- (i) (RTEs) are approved for a maximum period of 3 calendar years, commencing from the date of appointment and ending 31 December of the final year.
 - (ii) The Director may renew the approval for a further 3 years, provided that a request is submitted at least 90 days prior to the expiry of the current designation.
 - (iii) The Director may at any time suspend or cancel the approval given to a RTE should it be deemed necessary.
 - (iv) Any person who is currently appointed in writing as a DE (RT) may continue to exercise the privileges of that appointment until the expiry date on the letter of appointment.
7. **DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SACAA BY THE CANDIDATE**
- 7.1 For the Restricted Certificate - Form CA61-01.0c or as amended.
- 7.2 For the General Certificate - Form CA 61-05.02a or as amended.


DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION