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**BY HAND****General Exemption**

South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)  
Private Bag X73  
Halfway House  
1685

Dear Sir/Madam

**GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS**

The South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") has put in place a contingency plan to ensure business continuity during alert level 3 lockdown period as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Due to the backlog on the issuance of licences/ certificates and approvals that built up from the alert level 5 lockdown period, this Authority approves a general exemption as follows:

**1. AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES, FLIGHT CREW, CABIN CREW, MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS, APPROVED PERSONS, REMOTE PILOTS, FLIGHT ENGINEERS AND SECURITY SCREENERS/ INSTRUCTORS**

1.1 The SACAA issues the following extensions to enable licensed or certificated personnel whose licences / certificates expire during the period stipulated below, to continue enjoying the privileges of their licenses under the following conditions, with the exclusion of the medical rating which is covered under section 2 below:

1.1.1 For the holder of a licence or personnel certificate issued with a rating for special purposes where the maintenance of competency or rating has expired or where the period of validity has lapsed between the period:

- 01 - 31 July 2020, the holder may exercise the privileges of the licence or rating for the period up to 31 October 2020;
- 01 – 31 August 2020, the holder may exercise the privileges of the licence or rating for the period up to 30 November 2020; and
- 01 – 30 September 2020 the holder may exercise the privileges of the licence or rating for the period up to 31 December 2020.

1.1.2 In the case of any Flight Instructor rating issued in terms of Part 61 with an expiry date falling between 01 March 2020 to 31 August 2020, the rating

may be revalidated without the attendance of the flight instructor refresher seminar as prescribed in Document SA-CATS 61.

1.1.3 Flight Instructors exercising the privileges of section 1.1.2 above must submit proof of compliance with all other regulatory requirements to the SACAA before the end of December 2020.

1.2 It is the responsibility of the license/certificate holder to ensure that the renewal applications are submitted to comply within the prescribed processing times of the SACAA to ensure compliance with the regulations and the conditions of this exemption.

## **2. MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATE EXEMPTION**

2.1 Class I, II, III and IV medical certificate holders who are on medical protocols and those who are above 60 years of age will be required to present themselves to Designated Aviation Medical Examiners for medical examination and issuance of medical certificates.

2.2 Class I, II, III and IV medical certificate holders who are not able to consult DAMES and do not suffer from medical conditions that requires them to comply with any medical protocols may apply for a renewal of a medical certificate through Telemedicine Modalities in line with the Health Professions Council of South Africa's Guidelines. Licence holders must preferably use the DAME consulted during their most recent consultation or they must give consent to any other DAME to gain access to their previous medical records. The applicants must submit to the SACAA on the reasons why they are not able to consult.

2.3 Designated Aviation Medical Examiners may conduct and issue medical examinations for new applicants during the Level 3 lockdown period; however, the use of telemedicine is not to be used for these applicants.

2.4 In line with Part 67.00.9, applicants have a duty to notify their designated aviation medical examiners or the SACAA Medical Assessors:

- a) Should they be aware of any medical condition or medication which could affect the validity of their medical certificate;
- b) In case they get injured;
- c) Should they be hospitalised;
- d) Should they undergo surgical operation or invasive procedure;
- e) If they start using medication regularly;
- f) 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of pregnancy;
- g) Absence from work due to illness for a period of more than 21 days.

2.5 All aviation medical certificate holders shall continue to comply with the Civil Aviation Regulations and Technical Standards (CARs and CATS) save as specifically mentioned in this exemption.

2.6 Medical examination priority should be given to aviation personnel that render essential services such as helicopter emergency services, police, coastguard, offshore oil and gas, cargo operators and air traffic controllers.

- 2.7 The pilot in command and co-pilot must ensure that while operating an aircraft in a multicrew environment, one crew member has a valid medical certificate not issued using telemedicine.
- 2.8 Applicants based outside of the borders of South Africa who wish to renew their medical certificates are encouraged to make use of telemedicine and apply through their Designated Aviation Medical Examiner in line with the provision of Part 67.00.10 which addresses medical validations, and Part 67.00.11 which addresses foreign medicals.

## **VALIDATIONS**

### **67.00.10**

- (1) The Director may, after consultation with the body or institution designated in terms of regulation 67.00.3, recognise a foreign medical report, medical assessment or medical certificate issued by an appropriate authority for the purpose of validating a foreign flight crew member's licence, air traffic service personnel's licence or cabin crew member's licence.
- (2) If, because of duty in a State or territory outside the Republic, deferral of the issuing of a South African medical certificate for a flight crew member or a cabin crew member, as the case may be, has to be made, such deferral shall not exceed—
  - (a) a single period of six months in the case of a flight crew member of an aircraft used in non-commercial operations; or
  - (b) two consecutive periods, each of three months, in the case of a flight crew member or a cabin crew member, as the case may be, of an aircraft used in commercial operations: Provided that in each case a favourable medical report is obtained after examination by a designated examiner of the area concerned, or, in cases where such a designated medical examiner is not available, by a physician legally qualified to practice medicine in that area. A report of the medical examination shall be sent to the Authority where the licence is issued;
  - (c) in the case of a private pilot, a single period not exceeding 24 months where the medical examination is carried out by an examiner designated by the Contracting State in which the applicant is temporarily located. A report of the medical examination shall be sent to the Authority where the licence is issued.
- (3) After the expiry of the periods referred to in sub-regulation (2), the applicant will be required to undergo the appropriate medical examination as soon as he or she returns to the Republic.

## **FOREIGN MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS**

### **67.00.11**

- (1) The Director may recognise any foreign medical report, history and examination form and investigations issued by an appropriate authority for the purposes of renewing a flight crew member's licence.
- (2) The holder of the licence referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall submit all the medical records, which may include, but is not limited to, a history and examination form signed by both the licence holder and the examining doctor registered with the appropriate authority, and all relevant investigations.

- (3) All medical records submitted in terms of this regulation should be in English, or, if originally in a foreign language, translated into English by an official translator.

2.9 Applicant's medical restrictions on medical certificates will remain in force during the period of the exemption.

### **3. EXEMPTION FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF LUNG FUNCTION TEST IN LINE WITH PART 67**

- 3.1. Consistent with best practice and guidelines issued among others by the South African Thoracic Society (SATS), the SACAA recommends that no lung function tests must be conducted during the current Covid-19 outbreak until further notice. This includes the performance of peak flow testing in hospitalised patients admitted with acute asthma. This recommendation is based on the need to obviate or minimise aerosolization procedures that may contribute to the spread of the corona virus.
- 3.2 In the event there is an absolute need for the conduct of any lung function test, it must be requested and conducted under strict supervision, preferably by a pulmonologist. The procedure must be conducted with optimal infection control and use of full personal protection equipment (PPE) as per national guidelines.
- 3.3 In the absence of lung function test submitted to SACAA, the applicants are required to submit a comprehensive lung function assessment/examination report and a Chest X Ray from Designated Aviation Medical Examiners with their application. The DAME must pay attention to the history of the applicant.
- 3.4 Both initial and renewal medical certificate applicants with underlying medical respiratory condition shall consult a Pulmonologist to ensure that they meet the prescribed Part 67 Technical Standards requirements.

### **4. WRITING OF CIVIL AVIATION PERSONNEL LICENCES EXAMINATIONS**

- 4.1 SACAA Midrand office and all Accredited/Designated Examination Centres opened on the 08 June 2020.
- 4.2 Outstations examination commencement:
  - Durban and Cape Town: 03 August 2020
  - Port Elizabeth: 10 August 2020
  - George: 07 September 2020
- 4.3 All theoretical examinations will be extended for a period commensurate with the lockdown period.
- 4.4 Outstation applications and proof of payment must be sent to the following email address: [written@caa.co.za](mailto:written@caa.co.za).
- 4.5 Applications at SACAA HQ and proof of payment must be forwarded to the following email address: [exams@caa.co.za](mailto:exams@caa.co.za)

- 4.6 Virtual Training is allowed until 30 November 2020, subject to amendment of the Training Procedure Manual to conduct such training and approval by the SACAA.

## **5. AIRPORT AND AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES OPERATIONS**

- 5.1 All regulatory approvals, licenses, ratings, currency training and ATS Designated Examiners with an expiry date of 31 May to 30 June 2020, can exercise their privileges for the period of up to 31 August 2020.
- 5.2 For upgrade of aerodromes or firefighting service category etc., a risk assessment shall be conducted with an application for exemption, submitted to the SACAA.
- 5.3 All licenses for Air Traffic Services personnel that operate in an environment with single staff on duty with an expiry date that falls in the lockdown period for that particular unit must be renewed as soon as the unit is reopened to regain currency.
- 5.4 For downgrade of aerodromes or firefighting service category, hours of operation, aerodrome facilities, etc. the licence holder will obtain a written approval from the SACAA and thereafter issue a NOTAM advising the industry of the category downgrade.
- 5.5 Aerodrome and ATS operators must enrol their employees upon renewal of their approvals, training and/or ratings at the first available opportunity and must submit a risk assessment to the SACAA with respect to the intended resumption of normal operations, with personnel who's approvals, training and/or ratings are affected during lockdown and were unable to regain their rating by following normal regulations, due to the lockdown restrictions. Before resumption of duties, safety risk must be managed through alternative means and operators and the SACAA must reach an agreement before alternate means are utilised.

## **6. DANGEROUS GOODS, AVIATION SECURITY, CREW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TRAINING, LINE CHECKS, PILOT PROFICIENCY CHECKS**

- 6.1 Validity of training and proficiency checks with an expiry date of 1 May to 30 June 2020, is extended up to 31 August 2020.
- 6.2 Virtual Training is allowed until 30 November 2020, subject to amendment of the Manual of Procedure to conduct such training and approval by SACAA.
- 6.3 All applicants who meet all renewal requirements, must submit their application documents electronically.
- 6.4 Air Operator Certificate holders who are not able to comply with Part 121 and Part 135 pilot proficiency checking, dangerous goods training and checking requirements for up to 31 August 2020, will be required to submit an alternative means to demonstrate how they will comply in the form of a Safety Case, to the Flight Operations Department for acceptance. The submission must consider risk-based approach process that shall also focus on the applicable situations through management of change as outlined in SA CATS 140.01.3(2) (2.6) (2). For an acceptable definition and guidance material on a

safety case, kindly consult General Notice on this subject accessible on the SACAA website.

**7. DESIGNATED FLIGHT EXAMINERS, CABIN DESIGNATED EXAMINERS AND DESIGNATED AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINERS:**

If you are a holder of the designation that expired after 27 March 2020, you will be able to continue to use the privileges of your designation for a period of up to 31 August 2020 provided that you have complied with the requirements for the 2020/2021 re-designation. Applications for the renewal of designations has opened since the 01 June 2020.

**8. OPERATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Operators conducting Multi Crew operations are to ensure that any crew pairing does not include two pilots operating under this exemption who have the same proficiency checks or licenses extended.

Any proficiency checks and license extensions under this exemption of less than 30 days, will not form part of the Multi Crew operation restriction above.

**9. ARTICLE 33 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES**

South Africa will recognise the validity of certificates and licences from other States and the temporary differences adopted, in line with the COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Yours faithfully,

*Signed electronically*

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**Ms POPPY KHOZA**  
**Director of Civil Aviation**