

NOTICE TO OPERATORS

New Commission Regulation for the European Union:

Commission Regulation (EU) No. 452/2014 ***Part TCO - Third Country Operator Safety Authorisations***

This Safety Bulletin is to notify all UK Overseas Territory commercial air transport operators of a new Commission Regulation regarding Third Country Operators (TCO). The intention of this new regulation is for all non-European Union (EU) commercial air transport operators to be assessed by EASA, with regards to safety performance, prior to operating into, within or out of EU territories. A successful assessment will lead to the issuing of a TCO safety authorisation, which will be valid for all European Union territories. However, a separate foreign operator permit will still be required for each individual EU territory, since these remain a national responsibility, and a TCO authorisation shall be a prerequisite of such a permit being issued.

The new Regulation has now been officially published and is due to come into force on 26th May 2014. A copy is available on the EASA website:

<http://easa.europa.eu/document-library/regulations/commission-regulation-eu-no-4522014>

There will be a 30 month transition period for completion of the TCO authorisation process. However, in order that this transition period is achieved, EASA requires all applications from operators currently operating to EU territories, to be submitted within the first 6 months of the Regulation being in force. EASA has stated that it cannot guarantee completion within the 30 month transition period if an authorisation application is received outside of this 6 month window.

A TCO authorisation is not required for overflight of EU territories.

This Regulation also applies to following French Overseas Territories in the Caribbean region: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint Martin.

It is important, therefore, that commercial air transport operators apply for authorisations, where required, before 26th November 2014.

TCO authorisations are not time limited, but operators will be subject to periodical review via an EASA monitoring programme and if there are findings, a corrective action plan will be required in order to eliminate or mitigate the root cause and prevent recurrence. Should the corrective action plan be deemed unacceptable or is not completed within the time period stated, this can lead to the TCO authorisation being limited or suspended.

Further information is available at:

<http://easa.europa.eu/TCO>

Frequently asked questions and answers are available at:

<http://easa.europa.eu/the-agency/faqs/third-country-operators-tco>

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