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31 March 2021

**Subject:** End of the CCRD system for recording differences related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and establishment of the Targeted Exemptions (TE) system for exceptional circumstances

**Action required:** a) Note the information; b) inform ICAO about any TE as provided in paragraph 7 a); c) review the information provided in the “TE Acceptability to Other States” database as requested in paragraph 7 b)

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to refer to the COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences (CCRD) system and its termination effective 31 March 2021. Since 3 April 2020, States have been encouraged to notify the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) of any temporary differences related to the COVID-19 pandemic using the CCRD system accessible through the Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) dashboard (State letter AN 11/55-20/50).

2. Such differences were intended to be temporary in nature. Prolonged differences and alleviations, such as those related to certification and licensing, could result in an elevated operational safety risk. On 23 December 2020, State letter AN 11/55-20/136 was issued to request States not to extend alleviations (both core and extended CCRDs) beyond 31 March 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

3. To support States in the transition to normal operations and, if necessary, in the event of unforeseeable circumstances, a new Targeted Exemptions (TE) system will be launched, replacing the CCRD system from 1 April 2021 with a three-month transition period. States that have issued alleviations are encouraged to return to normal operations as soon as possible, and if circumstances do not allow them to do so, to enter their targeted exemptions into the TE system. Once submitted, the TE should replace the previous alleviation filed in the CCRD.

4. TEs are tightly scoped and time limited State-issued exemptions to a specified subset of Standards granted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. TEs are granted to specific operators or groups of individuals while national regulations remain in compliance with Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Where exemptions lead to a difference from SARPs, the State must use the standard process for notifying ICAO of the differences using the EFOD system. For consistency, pre-defined text is proposed for making this entry in the EFOD system. This text can be found in the *TEs and EFOD* section at <https://www.icao.int/safety/OPS/OPS-Normal/Pages/Targeted-Exemptions.aspx>.

5. The TE system will provide a structured approach to the notification and dissemination of temporary exemptions to specific Standards relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing another State to determine acceptability of a TE based on comprehensive information collected in a standardized format, and facilitating foreign operator inspections as necessary.

6. The TE system will also identify whether TEs granted by an issuing State are acceptable within the territory of another State. Currently, the TE system contains “acceptance” information that was transferred from the CCRD system. This information will be updated as States inform ICAO of the status of their acceptance of other States’ TEs using a fillable portable document format (PDF) form.

7. With these considerations in mind, States are urged to:

- a) inform ICAO of any TE granted by using a TE submission form. Guidance for the completion of the TE form is provided on a new website, the Roadmap to Ops Normal (<https://www.icao.int/safety/OPS/OPS-Normal/Pages/Targeted-Exemptions.aspx>); and
- b) indicate whether your State will recognize or accept TEs granted by another State. In this regard, States are requested to regularly review their “acceptance” information in the “TE Acceptability to Other States” database (<https://www.icao.int/safety/OPS/OPS-Normal/Pages/TEAcceptability.aspx>) for currency and submit updates accordingly using the form provided.

8. The aforementioned information needs to be provided by the National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (NCCM) or any other authorized user.

9. The TE system will remain operational for at least one year with the view that States should resume international operations without exemptions as soon as possible. Advance notice of at least three months will be provided before the system is closed down.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fang Liu  
Secretary General