

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (Australia): COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Measures

As at 31 March 2020

- For the next few months, we are being flexible in the regulatory approach we take in order to support the aviation industry.
- Australia continues to review areas of possible industry relief and has already put in place various general exemptions for a number of CASA authorisations or permissions, which are designed to proportionally manage safety risks.
- Our decisions are designed to make it as easy as possible for the aviation industry to continue current operational activities while ensuring aviation safety is maintained and operational risks are managed.
- The following relief measures have already been put in place by CASA:
 - Air Operator's Certificates (AOC) have been extended through an administrative process by six months.
 - Pilots and air traffic controllers will be able to exercise the privileges of their licence for six months after the expiration of any medical certificate. The conditions on medical certificates will continue to apply.
 - Privileges of licences can be exercised for a further three months where current flight review or proficiency checks expire after 1 March 2020. Following this, applications will be required to extend beyond the three months.
 - Operators will have relief from Part 61 proficiency checking and flight review as well as training and checking requirements up to 30 June 2020. Further relief options are being developed.
 - Continuing airworthiness management organisations, approved maintenance organisations and maintenance training organisations will have certificates extended by six months.
 - To assist the RPAS industry, all RPA operator certificates will be extended for 6 months, unless currently subject to CASA enforcement.
 - For RPAS operators transitioning to new requirements, CASA anticipates delaying certain proposed commencement dates for training organisations and record keeping requirements by six months.
 - We will have some general exemptions in place to cover dangerous goods, drug and alcohol management procedures and emergency procedures soon.
 - We have extended the statutory time period to complete exams for pilots and engineers.
- We have encouraged operators to continue requesting the regulatory services they need using CASA's existing channels and have assured operators that, as the regulator, we will continue to work with them.
- Australia is issuing a NOTAM on COVID-19 travel restrictions and passenger requirements which refers to Government websites so it is dynamic as travel restrictions are updated.
- A NOTAM specifically referring to the Cape York and Torres Strait biosecurity area has been issued.
- Australia is monitoring the need for an 'Aerodrome restrictions' NOTAM.