



Miscellaneous

No: 1409

Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011

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Regulation (EU) No. 2018/395

Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1976

### General Exemption E 5122

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#### **Covid-19 – Outbreak: Extension of Validity and other Time Periods for Licences, Ratings, Privileges, Endorsements and Certificates of Balloon and Sailplane Pilots, Instructors and Examiners**

- 1) In response to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid-19 outbreak and in line with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) guidance, the Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), on behalf of the United Kingdom and pursuant to article 71(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139, exempts all pilots, instructors and examiners of balloons and sailplanes for whom the CAA is the Competent Authority from the validity or time period of licences, ratings, groups and certificates issued in accordance with Annex I (Part-FCL) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011, Annex III (Part-BFCL), Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2018/395 and Annex III (Part-SFCL) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1976 detailed in paragraph 2 and subject to any conditions specified in paragraph 3.
- 2) Relevant balloon and sailplane pilots, instructors and examiners are exempted from the standard validity or time periods of the following licences, ratings, privileges, endorsements and certificates, that expire on or after 16 March 2020 and before **31 October 2020**, which may be extended until the end of the validity period of this exemption:
  - a) groups/class ratings or privileges endorsed in Part-FCL pilot licences;
  - b) Part-FCL instructor and examiner certificates;
  - c) language proficiency endorsements;
  - d) recommendations for taking theoretical knowledge examinations, issued by a DTO or by an ATO in accordance with FCL.025(a)(3) of Part-FCL, BFCL.135(b)(3) of Part-BFCL and SFCL.135(b)(3) of Part-SFCL;
  - e) the time periods specified in FCL.725(c) of Part-FCL with regard to all of the following:
    - i) the time period between the commencement of a class/group rating training course and the pass of the skill test; and
    - ii) the time period between the pass of the skill test and the application for the issue of the class/group ratings;

- f) the time period specified in the following, provided that the regular time period ended between 16 March and 22 November 2020 inclusive:
  - i) FCL.810(a)(1); and
  - ii) language proficiency endorsements;
- g) the time periods specified in the following requirements of Part-FCL are extended as follows:
  - i) the previous 300 days for FCL.060(a) (balloon pilot recency for commercial air transport and the carriage of passengers);
  - ii) the previous 32 months, in the case of any of the following:
    - 1) FCL.130.S(c) and FCL.220.S (sailplane launching methods);
    - 2) (a) and (b)(1) of FCL.140.S as well as FCL.230.S (sailplane pilot recency);
    - 3) FCL.130.B(c) and FCL.220.B (recency for tethered balloon flight);
    - 4) FCL.140.B and FCL.230.B(a) (balloon pilot recency);
    - 5) FCL.805(e) (TMG towing rating recency); and
    - 6) FCL.830(d) (sailplane cloud flying recency);
- h) the time periods specified in the following requirements of Part-BFCL are extended as follows:
  - i) the previous 30 months for:
    - 1) (a)(1)(i), (a)(2), (b) and (f)(1) of BFCL.160 (balloon pilot recency); and
    - 2) BFCL.215(d)(2) (commercial operation rating recency);
  - ii) the previous 56 months for:
    - 1) BFCL.160(a)(1)(ii) (balloon pilot recency); and
    - 2) BFCL.200(d) (recency for tethered balloon flight);
  - iii) the previous 300 days for BFCL.215(d)(1) (commercial operation rating recency); and
  - iv) the previous 3 years and 8 months for BFCL.360(a)(1) (balloon instructor recency);
- i) the time periods specified in the following requirements of Part-SFCL are extended as follows:
  - i) the previous 32 months for:
    - 1) SFCL.155(c) (sailplane launching methods);
    - 2) SFCL.205(f) (sailplane towing or banner towing rating); and
    - 3) SFCL.215(e) (sailplane cloud flying rating);
  - ii) the previous 30 months for (a) and (b) of SFCL.160 (sailplane pilot recency); and
  - iii) the previous 3 years and 8 months for SFCL.360(a)(1) (sailplane instructor recency).

- 3) The conditions mentioned in paragraph 2 are:
- a) **Holders of group ratings, class ratings or privileges** benefiting from 2(a) of this exemption shall comply with all of the following:
    - i) hold either a valid relevant rating and/or privilege;
    - ii) during the validity period of this exemption, have received a briefing from an instructor who holds relevant instructional privileges in order to refresh the required level of theoretical knowledge to safely operate the applicable class or type and to safely carry out the relevant manoeuvres and procedures, as applicable. That briefing shall include class, group or privilege specific abnormal and emergency procedures, as appropriate.
  - b) Upon successful completion of the briefing at paragraph 3(a)(ii), the new expiry date of the relevant rating/endorsement shall be confirmed by the instructor emailing confirmation of having delivered the briefing. (See Note 4.)
  - c) **Holders of licences** benefitting from paragraph 2(h), (i) or (j) of this exemption shall, during the validity period of this exemption, have received a briefing from an instructor who holds relevant instructional privileges in order to refresh the required level of theoretical knowledge to safely operate the applicable aircraft and to carry out the relevant manoeuvres and procedures, as applicable. That briefing shall include specific abnormal and emergency procedures, as appropriate to the category, class and group of aircraft as well as to the relevant kind of privileges, as applicable.
- 4) For Sailplane and Balloon instructors and examiners the following arrangements are in place for certificates that expire on or after 16 March 2020 and before **31 October 2020**:
- a) **Instructor certificate holders** requiring to meet the recency requirements of either Part-SFCL or Part-BFCL will note that there is no licence endorsement.
  - b) **Examiner certificate holders** requiring to meet the revalidation or renewal requirements of either Part-SFCL or Part-BFCL will be able to obtain either a Temporary Certificate (SRG1100A) or an individual exemption.
- 5) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No. 1381 which is revoked.
- 6) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 22 November 2020, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

J Overall  
for the Civil Aviation Authority

3 August 2020

**Notes:**

1. The CAA is aware that individual licence holders may have difficulties in completing training and checking during the period of the COVID-19 infection and has issued this exemption in line with the template devised by EASA and provided to all Member States. This exemption does not preclude the revalidation of licences, ratings or certificates so long as the participants do not breach legal prohibitions on non-essential activities, Government COVID-19 public health guidance, CAA guidance and they can be carried out safely.
2. Anyone with queries regarding the application of this exemption should contact the CAA General Aviation Unit at [ga.ga@caa.co.uk](mailto:ga.ga@caa.co.uk).
3. The CAA will keep this exemption under constant review and react as necessary to the circumstances which are expected to change.
4. Recording of extension of privileges:
  - a) Licence holders: Recording of the extension of the recency validity period should be subject to a briefing that can be conducted via preferably an electronic audio-visual link or telephone or in person maintaining social distancing requirements, covering theoretical knowledge and flight safety subjects.
    - i) The confirmation of this briefing is to be recorded in the logbook in one of the following methods:
      - 1) the instructor will confirm by electronic means (scanned copy), and this is to be printed and affixed to the logbook; or
      - 2) the instructor will confirm by letter, which is to be affixed to the logbook; or
      - 3) the instructor to make an entry in the logbook.
    - ii) The licence holder must carry a copy of the exemption notice as part of their licence.
5. It is the intention of the CAA to resume normal licensing requirements as soon as the situation returns to normality.
6. All pilots should be aware of HM Government's and the relevant devolved Government's current positions on recreational flying, prior to any flights.
7. The reason for the amendment of ORS4 No. 1381 is the transfer of all medical elements into a single document, ORS4 No. 1408, to assist in the recovery phase of aviation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. The CAA is looking at the use of Self-Declaration of Medicals for UK EASA Medical certificate holders at Class 2 and LALP Medical level, as this would assist commercial pilots in returning to ICAO norms as soon as possible, such Declarations would be restricted to flights within UK airspace, we hope to publish further information shortly.