



SAFETY DECISION 2020-23

Issue 02

Date of Issue: December 8, 2020

SUBJECT:

POST-COVID PREPARATION: EXPEDITE RETURN TO NORM

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

SAFETY DECISION 2020-17

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the aviation community to take unprecedented measures to maintain business operations without compromising safety. With that spirit in mind, since March 2020, the GCAA has issued several flexibility provisions (via SAFETY DECISION instrument) to address the challenges that industry was facing due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions imposed by countries, including UAE.

Despite new wave(s) of infections observed worldwide, countries have reopened their border and economy with a reasonable level of normality. Business as normal may be catalysed by the different vaccines that are under authorisation worldwide.

This Safety Decision is issued to:

- Urge organisations to expedite the return to normal of their operations; and
- Require organisations to review their OPERATIONS RESUMPTIONS PLANNING required by SD 2020-17 and align their timeline with 31st March 2021 as maximum¹ deadline for “return to normality”.

The above dispositions is in line with the revised ICAO CART recommendations. Recommendation 12 states:

States should put in place the necessary measures to mitigate risks associated with prolonged regulatory alleviations and should not extend alleviations (both core and extended CCRDs) beyond 31 March 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise. In addition, States are encouraged to facilitate access to medical and training facilities, including flight simulation training devices used for flight crew (national and foreign) to maintain their certifications, recency of experience and proficiency.

DISCLAIMER: This SAFETY DECISION is issued to address aviation safety related flexibility provisions granted against specific operating CAR. This SAFETY DECISION does not aim at addressing the Public Health Measures prescribed by SAFETY DECISION 2020-20 and SAFETY DECISION 2020-21 which remain in force until further notice.

¹ See footnote no. 3



REQUIREMENTS

- a) Organisations shall, by 1st January 2021, update and submit their resumptions plan (prescribed by SD 2020-17) to ensure that any granted flexibility provisions is surrendered² before 31st March 2021³.
- b) Foreign air operators shall communicate⁴ to the GCAA any alleviations maintained by their primary civil aviation authority after the 31st March 2021.

CONTACT:

Further instructions or guidance may be obtained through:

Email: SafetyManagement@gcaa.gov.ae or regulations@gcaa.gov.ae

² The organisation shall surrender each granted flexibility measures by providing the GCAA with a Statement listing which flexibility provisions is still in force with their system.

³ The GCAA may require an organisation to plan its return to normality before 31st March 2021.

⁴ Through the questionnaire (**FAF-FOQ-001**) which contains a section that is filled by the state of the operator in case of any differences with ICAO SARPs.