

**Collecting Guidance from Expert Groups
Template**

Alleviation Title	ATCO recency requirement extension
Version	1.1
Publication Date	19 May 2020
Relevant Standard(s)	<p>Annex 1</p> <p>4.5.3.4 Validity of ratings</p> <p>A rating shall become invalid when an air traffic controller has ceased to exercise the privileges of the rating for a period determined by the Licensing Authority. That period shall not exceed six months. A rating shall remain invalid until the controller's ability to exercise the privileges of the rating has been re-established.</p>
CCRD entry required	No
Problem Statement	<p>Where the use of a qualified OJTI to provide revalidation training is not possible, States may determine a need to waive the 6 month recency requirement to ensure continuity of service provision, for example, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of COVID-19 related health issues, some ATCOs may exceed the 6 month recency requirement without having exercised the privileges of a rating or ratings, or • ATCOs return from other leave unrelated to COVID-19; or • ANSPs may find it necessary to utilize previously rated air traffic controllers to ensure continuity of service provision, due to staff sickness etc.
Applicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ATC Ratings are within the validity period at the time of the alleviation • This alleviation applies for the period established by the State and ending no later than 31 March 2021.
Alleviation summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the rating validity is to a specific date upon application or general administrative decision
Operational Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Air Traffic Control staff, providing live ATC services.
Possible Mitigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATCO pairing (e.g. A planner and Controller, one of whom complies with recency requirements)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional performance monitoring or assessment (including by remote means): • reviews of voice recordings • oral knowledge testing • written knowledge tests • Performance assessment using principles of social spacing • Active monitoring of traffic complexity and volume by ATC supervisors to ensure ATCO workload is maintained at an appropriate level • “Return to normal operations plan” to manage the assessment, as per Annex 1 — Personnel Licensing, by each ATCO affected by the alleviation when it expires.
<p>Alleviations likely to be unacceptable to other States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers using this temporary alleviation for reason not associated with COVID-19 constraints.
<p>References:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual on Air Traffic Controller Competency-based Training and Assessment and the Manual on Air Traffic Control On-the-Job Training Instructor Competency-based Training and Assessment (Doc 10056, Volumes I and II)