COVID-19 - Extension of validity periods for licences, ratings, certificates, and attestations of aircrew, instructors, and examiners.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the ability of aviation personnel and organisations to maintain licences, ratings, certificates, and attestations due to the national requirement to implement social distancing and the limitation of movement of persons in the European Union, the Irish Aviation Authority pursuant to article 71(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139, hereby provides an exemption from compliance with the following requirements subject to the limits and conditions detailed in this Aeronautical Notice;

Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011:
- FCL.625, FCL.740, FCL.940 and FCL.1025 of Annex I (Part-FCL);
- MED.A.045, MED.C.030 and MED.D.030 of Annex IV (Part-MED);

Regulation (EU) No 965/2012:
- ORO.FC.230, ORO.FC.330, ORO.FC.A.245, ORO.CC.140 and ORO.TC.135 of Annex III (Part-ORO), CAT.GEN.MPA.200(a), NCC.GEN.150(a), and SPO.GEN.150(a).

Chief Executive  
Irish Aviation Authority
1. SCOPE OF EXEMPTION

This Exemption applies to:

a) Training and checking in accordance with Annex III (Part-ORO) to Commission Regulation (EU) No 965/2012 for Air Operator Certificate (AOC) holders and declared Part-NCC and Part-SPO operators under the oversight of the Irish Aviation Authority; and

b) Holders of licences, ratings, certificates, and attestations issued by the Irish Aviation Authority or by a Part-ORO operator, in accordance with Annex I (Part-FCL), Annex IV (Part-MED) and Annex V (Part-CC) to Commission Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011 or Commission Regulation (EU) 965/2012, as applicable, who operate under the management system of an organisation for which Part-ORO is applicable and for whom the Irish Aviation Authority is the competent authority.

2. EXEMPTION TO OPERATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

A PART-ORO Operator shall apply to the Irish Aviation Authority to extend the validity period of training and checking in accordance with Annex III (Part-ORO) to Regulation (EU) No 965/2012, including:

- operator proficiency checks (OPC) in accordance with points ORO.FC.230(b) and ORO.FC.330 of Part-ORO
- line-oriented evaluation in accordance with point ORO.FC.A.245(d), if applicable
- Line Check ORO.FC.230 (c)
- operator emergency and safety equipment training and checking in accordance with point ORO.FC.230(d) of Part-ORO
- operator ground and flight training in accordance with point ORO.FC.230(f) of Part-ORO
- operator cabin crew recurrent training and checking in accordance with point ORO.CC.140 of Part-ORO
- operator technical crew recurrent training in accordance with point ORO.TC.135 of Part-ORO
- operator staff dangerous goods recurrent training in accordance with CAT.GEN.MPA.200(a), NCC.GEN.150(a), and/or SPO.GEN.150(a)
- any related Specific Approval (PART-SPA)

by a period up to 4 months for personnel under its management system subject to the following:

a) the regular validity period of training and checking, as set out in the applicable training and checking requirements of Part-ORO, expires between the effective date of this Exemption and up to and including 31 July 2020;

b) the personnel hold a valid class or type rating, as appropriate;

c) the personnel operate under the management system of an organisation for which Part-ORO is applicable;
d) the personnel have received refresher training, followed by the completion of an assessment, by means established by the operator and accepted by the Authority, to determine that the required level of knowledge to operate the applicable class or type is maintained. That assessment shall include class or type specific abnormal and emergency procedures.

Additionally, operator emergency and safety equipment training and checking in accordance with ORO.FC.230(d), ground and flight training in accordance with ORO.FC.115, ORO.FC.230(f), OPC for commercial SPO and CAT ORO.FC.005(B)(1) and (2) in accordance with ORO.FC.330, cabin crew recurrent training and checking in accordance with ORO.CC.140, technical crew recurrent training in accordance with ORO.TC.135, where the operator has ensured that such crew members complete additional training through any suitable means acceptable to the Authority.

3. PROCESS FOR EXTENSION OF VALIDITY PERIODS OF LICENCE, RATINGS, AND CERTIFICATES.

An operator’s flight crew shall be eligible for the extension of the validity period of a rating and/or certificate by a period of 4 months by demonstrating, under the operator’s management system, that they have complied with the following:

a) the regular validity period of the rating or certificate expires between the effective date of this Exemption and up to and including 31 July 2020;

b) the personnel hold a valid class or type rating and operate under the management system of an organisation for which Part-ORO is applicable; and

c) the personnel receive refresher training, followed by the completion of an assessment by means established by the operator, acceptable to the Authority, to determine that the required level of knowledge to operate the applicable class or type are maintained. That assessment shall include class or type specific abnormal and emergency procedures.

Note 1 Valid Examiner & Instructor certificates may be extended for the period of the entire exemption without formality by the Authority or a tasked Senior Examiner.

Note 2 English Language Proficiency (ELP) endorsements are extended for the period of the entire exemption without formality.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

a) Operators holding a PART-ORO Certificate or Declaration under the oversight of the Irish Aviation Authority should apply to use the elements of this Exemption, as required, directly to their assigned Flight Operations Inspector (FOI).
b) Operators holding a PART-ORO Certificate or Declaration under the oversight of another (EU) Aviation Authority which employs pilots licenced by the Irish Aviation Authority should contact the IAA at fod@iaa.ie for advice about how to use elements of this Exemption as may be required.

c) The documentary requirements for extending the privileges of the elements of this Exemption set out in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 above shall be communicated directly to the operator on a case by case basis.

d) At the end of the 4 month period(s) specified above, the Authority may, if required, extend validity periods for a further 4 months or to the end of the application of this Exemption, whichever date comes first.

5. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES and MEDICAL REPORTS – Pilots and Cabin Crew

Part-MED Class 1 medical certificate holders benefitting from this Exemption shall hold a valid Class 1 medical certificate without restrictions, excepting visual. Where a medical certificate holder is unable to complete a medical assessment with an Aeromedical Examiner, the validity of the medical certificate is extended for a period of 4 months subject to the following:

a) The validity period of the Class 1 medical certificate expires between the effective date of this Exemption and 31 July 2020;

b) The holder of the medical certificate operates under the management system of a Part-ORO Organisation;

c) The holder shall submit a declaration of fitness to the Part-ORO Organisation on IAA Form Number RPPL.F.DCV19. The Part-ORO Organisation shall accept the extension of the validity of the medical certificate for a period not exceeding 4-months; and

d) The completed declaration form shall be carried by the pilot licence holder when exercising their privileges.

Part-MED Cabin Crew medical reports holders benefitting from this Exemption shall hold a valid Cabin Crew medical report without restrictions, excepting visual. Where a medical report holder is unable to complete a medical assessment, the validity of the medical report is extended until the end of the application of this Exemption, subject to the following:

a) The validity period of the Cabin Crew medical report expires between the effective date of this Exemption and 31 July 2020;

b) The holder of the medical report operates under the management system of a Part-ORO Organisation; and

c) The holder shall submit a declaration of fitness to the operator on IAA Form Number RPPL.F.DCV19. The operator shall accept the extension of validity until the end of the application of this Exemption.