

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
OPPOSITE SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI

No. 4/1/2020-IR
Dated: 22.05.2020

CIRCULAR

Subject: Engineering and Operational Preparedness for Commencing Domestic Operations from 25-05-2020

As per revised MHA guidelines issued on 20-05-2020 and MOCA Order No. AV.29017/5/2020 –DT dated 21-05-2020, domestic air travel of passengers has been permitted to resume from 25th May 2020. Accordingly, general Instructions/guidelines have been issued for passengers and specific Operating Guidelines for major stakeholders (Airlines, Airport Operators, Ground Handling Agencies, etc.) for compliance by all concerned.

DGCA has issued several guidelines in the form of Airworthiness Advisory Circulars (AACs), Airworthiness Circulars (AWs) and Operations Circulars (OCs) to address the COVID19 pandemic as under:

Airworthiness related Circulars and Orders:

1. AAC 2 of 2020 R1
2. AW Circular 1 of 2020
3. AW Circular 2 of 2020
4. Order on extension on validity of various approvals, licenses and authorizations issued by DGCA

Operations related Circulars and Orders:

1. Order No. DGCA-18014/1/2020-DTL-DGCA dated 11th May 2020
2. OC 2 of 2020
3. OC 3 of 2020
4. OC 4 of 2020

In view of the fact that aircraft operations will commence from 25th May 2020, a meeting was conducted of all scheduled operators to review their preparedness, risk assessment and mitigation measures. Based on the discussions held, this circular is being issued as guidance to all operators including non-scheduled and general aviation operators for adopting risk assessment and mitigation measures prior to commencement of operations.

Most of the operators have an established SMS in place, which covers processes for risk assessment and mitigation measures to be adopted. However, in light of the current situation, good industry practices adopted by scheduled operators and DGCA suggested inputs are being shared for compliance for incorporation by other operators, to the extent feasible.

1. De-preservation/ Return to Service procedures as laid down by the manufacturer should be followed for aircraft which have been preserved.
2. Serviceability checks of hydraulic, electrical and flight control systems as per the OEM recommendations shall be carried out.
3. Suitable processes such as fumigation for prevention of rodent infestation etc., checking for nesting shall be carried out.
4. Invoking of MEL on the first flight of the day should be avoided to the extent possible.
5. Operators may consider conducting handling flights prior to commencing passenger operations. These flights may also be used to get three takeoff/ landing currency of pilots or gain handling currency, as the case may be.
6. To the extent possible the crew used for operations should be current and proficient.
7. The operating crew and the maintenance personnel should be subjected to adequate rest and extension to duty time limitation should be discouraged.
8. Operators are advised to:
 - a) Increase the minimum cockpit experience
 - b) Implement Distance Learning Programme as approved by DGCA
 - c) Plan for trainers to operate the initial flights as far as practical
 - d) In cases where cargo operations have been conducted by the operator(s), to use such current crew in the initial phase of commencing operations
9. Operators not having and approved Distance Learning Programme for flight crew and maintenance personnel are encouraged to develop the same. Operators may consider holding virtual class room training led by examiner or senior pilot for their crew to cover technical, performance, normal/ non-normal procedures.
10. Briefing/ de-briefing duration to be increased, both for simulators and flights for trainees or flight crew, to adequately cover the prevailing advisories on but not limited to weather, monsoon operations, NOTAMs, MEL implications etc.

11. All prevailing guidelines issued by the manufacturer to be adhered to at all times and mandatory documents are carried on board.

12. Operators to ensure that there is no compromise on engineering and operations requirements, which may adversely impact safety.



(Sunil Kumar)

Deputy Director General

To,

1. Domestic Scheduled/ Non-Scheduled / General Aviation Operators/ ATOs
2. The Chairman, Airports Authority of India