



**Immediate Attention**

**GACA Information Circular**

**To:** All GACA Certificated Air Operators.

**Subject:** The Restart of Domestic Air Operations on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) has been in full synchronization with all the concerned KSA governmental bodies with the aim of stopping COVID-19 transmission and protecting the public health. In addition, GACA has been acting in full harmonization with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and continuous benchmarking with the leading civil aviation authorities in the world.

GACA's actions towards the COVID-19 pandemic were primarily focused on strictly maintaining the aviation safety, while protecting the public health against the COVID-19 pandemic. This was achieved in part, by issuing certain regulatory exemptions that were based on careful safety assessments and risk mitigations.

As the KSA is moving into the next phase of its strategy in managing COVID-19 pandemic, domestic air operations are permitted as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The purpose of this circular is to emphasize the following crucial issues to which full adherence is expected by all GACA certificated air operators and regulated entities:

- 1- Protection of aviation workers:** Full compliance with the established standards set by the Saudi Ministry of Health is expected towards the protection of all aviation workers against the spread of COVID-19.
- 2- Compliance with the established regulations:** All GACA certificated air operators and all other regulated entities are expected to be in full compliance with the established GACA rules and regulations (GACARs).

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- 3- **GACA COVID-19 Related Regulatory Exemptions:** During the previous period of dealing with the pandemic, GACA has issued a number of Regulatory Exemptions to enable its regulated entities to maintain sound operations while maintaining safety standards. Such Regulatory Exemptions have been issued with precisely defined conditions to be complied with. Full adherence to those conditions is expected by regulated entities utilizing regulatory reliefs offered by those exemptions.
- 4- **Re-activation of aircraft under storage programs:** Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many aircraft have been put under approved aircraft storage programs. Full adherence to the approved aircraft re-activation procedures is expected by all aircraft operators.

While ascertaining the competency and professionalism of all GACA certificated air operators and regulated entities, GACA Aviation Standards will be further augmenting the compliance of the established aviation safety regulations during these times by performing its established surveillance activities which include scheduled and unscheduled surveillance activities and inspections.

We wish you all safe and efficient flights.

Handwritten signature in blue ink.

Abdulahdi A. Almansouri

President General Authority of Civil Aviation

