



SAFETY DECISION 2020-01

Issue 15

Date of Issue: June 03, 2020

SUBJECT:

FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS SARS-CoV-2

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

N/A

APPLICABILITY:

This Safety Decision applies to all aircraft operators conducting flights from/to the UAE.

This Safety Decision does not apply to:

- a) aircraft in state of emergency (as per international standards);
- b) operations related to medical flights for the purpose of carrying UAE nationals only (all crew on-board shall be subject to COVID-19 related Public Health Authority Requirements unless crews leave UAE territory);
- c) technical landings where passengers do not disembark. The same restrictions shall apply to crew unless it is for the purpose of walk around inspection and preparation of the intended flight and provided that precautions measures are in place to ensure limited interaction with other persons;
- d) aircraft operated for the purpose of evacuation (this Safety Decision does not alleviate the need for obtaining necessary authorisation from UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation);
- e) UAE registered aircraft that are out of base on 24 March 2020 23:59 Local Time will be allowed to return to base carrying only UAE nationals and operator's crewmembers;
- f) domestic flights (refer to SAFETY DECISION 2020-13); and
- g) over-flights.

INTRODUCTION:

Following the global developments concerning the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, also named 2019-nCoV) outbreak in the city of Wuhan, People's Republic of China (PRC), and based on the reports published by the WHO, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the GCAA, in collaboration with the concerned entities including NCEMA, has decided to impose restrictions on flights from affected areas by SARS-CoV-2.

Note 1: On 12 February 2020, the novel coronavirus was renamed "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2" (SARS-CoV-2), while the disease associated with it is referred to as COVID-19.

This issue will supersede and cancel **ISSUE 14**. This issue is to allow transit and transfer of passengers from / to UAE airports.

The UAE government is closely monitoring the situation and will provide further updates and instructions as necessary.



REQUIREMENTS:

Until further notice, aircraft operating a scheduled or non-scheduled flight from/to the UAE shall meet the following conditions:

- a) **Flight carrying passengers:** The flight is not permitted unless:
 - i. Carried passengers are in transit in or transfer from the UAE; **and**
 - ii. Passengers are carried by an Air Operator approved (by the GCAA) in accordance with Public Health Measures endorsed by NCEMA and titled "Protocol for transit and transfer operations in UAE airports".
- b) **Flight carrying cargo only:**
 - i. The flight is limited to crew and personnel required for the intended flight (deadheading or positioning crew included);
 - ii. Notwithstanding points a) and b)i) above, departing (from UAE) cargo flight carried out with a passenger airplane may be allowed to carry passengers provided that all following additional conditions are met:
 - A. The flight is operated by an UAE Air Operator;
 - B. The passengers are non-UAE Nationals; and
 - C. The UAE Air Operator provides the GCAA with the weekly schedule of such flight(s) ahead of time;
 - iii. All persons (including passengers carried as per b)ii)) on-board are SARS-CoV-2 screened/quarantined on arrival at the UAE airport, unless an alternative means has been accepted by the GCAA;
 - iv. The screening/quarantine regime shall be as prescribed by the UAE Health Authority;
 - v. The UAE airport is equipped to conduct the prescribed screening/quarantine regime; and
 - vi. The operator has made the necessary pre-arrangement with the airport operator and screening provider.

CONTACT:

Further instructions or guidance may be obtained through:

- a) UAE operators: their principal flight operations inspectors;
- b) Foreign operators: Foreign Operators Affairs, at e-mail foa@gcaa.gov.ae