



SAFETY DECISION 2021-07

Issue 01

Date of Issue: April 13th, 2021

SUBJECT:

FLIGHT, DUTY TIME AND REST LIMITATIONS

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

CAR-OPS-1

APPLICABILITY:

This Safety Decision applies to UAE AOC holders.

INTRODUCTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic led States to adopt exceptional and temporary measures to increase flight and duty limits and/or reduce rest requirements (period and / or facilities) when and where required. Very early in the development of the pandemic, the GCAA issued flexibility provision SAFETY DECISION 2020-06 to address the need and risk linked to extended duty period and/or reduced rest period for flight and cabin crew. With a global return to normalcy observed worldwide since early 2021, the GCAA has requested UAE operators to plan for alternatives if they wish to maintain such temporary measures after 31st March 2021. However, at the time this SAFETY DECISION is written, it can be observed that some countries have maintained or imposed more restrictions at their borders, hence inviting the GCAA to review its strategy.

This Safety Decision is issued to establish the requirements that will enable UAE operators to increase flight and duty limits and/or reduce rest requirements (period and / or facilities) when and where required after 31st March 2021.

REQUIREMENTS:

On and after 1st April 2021, no increase of flight and duty limits nor reduction of rest requirements (period and / or facilities) beyond what is permissible by CAR-OPS 1 shall be allowed unless the UAE operator complies, before 21st April 2021, with the following requirements:

- a) the operator shall provide a post-implementation report that would support a safe continuation of such measures with due considerations of:
 - i) the accumulated flight hours/cycles flown per destination;
 - ii) the analysis that substantiates (1) the need for maintaining the required increase/reduction and (2) the selected duty and rest period per destination;
 - iii) the number and severity of incidents that occurred (due to fatigue) or fatigue reports and outcomes of associated investigations;
 - iv) the effectiveness of the operator's compliance monitoring function and outcomes of the associated root cause analysis; and
 - v) A proposed submission to document that the UAE operator will increase its surveillance/monitoring activities (including en-route inspections) from 1st April 2021; and



- b) Before each flight, concerned crewmembers shall be required to reassure the operator that they appropriately rested and are free from fatigue so that they can operate efficiently and safely during normal and abnormal situations.
- c) The operator shall commit that when situation allows (i.e. layover of crew becomes permitted by the State or the public sanitary measures are practicable) to immediately comply with CAR-OPS Subpart Q and notify accordingly the GCAA.

CONTACT:

Further instructions or guidance: fops@gcaa.gov.ae