



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 02/2015

SUBJECT	:	AOC VALIDITY, TRANSFERABILITY AND SALE
ORIGINATOR	:	AVIATION SAFETY AFFAIRS SECTOR
ADDRESSED TO	:	UAE OPERATORS
DATE	:	18th MARCH 2015

BACKGROUND

From time to time the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) receives inquiries from individuals and organisations concerning their interest in acquiring an existing Air Operator Certificate (AOC), transferring an AOC and even an interest in an existing application made to the GCAA.

PURPOSE

This bulletin is issued to highlight the legal framework of the AOC approval in the UAE.

DETAILS

AOC once issued, is an attestation by the GCAA that the approved organisation has the capability of operating an aircraft while maintaining compliance with the existing regulations at the time of the approval. It is also a confirmation that the organisation is capable of maintaining the required level of approval throughout the validity of the AOC.

There are three (3) main components of the organisation the Hardware (aircraft, facility, equipment, finance), the People (Post holders, certified staff, management and support staff) and the Processes as indicated in the GCAA approved operations manual. When any one of these three (3) components is affected, the AOC is no longer relevant. The three (3) components are related, balanced and compatible to each other. A change in any one of them will result in affecting this balance and compatibility; and depending on organisations scope may affect its ability to sustain the conditions under which the approval is granted. This will result in the GCAA's intervention which could be subjecting the organisation to a full recertification or even suspending or revoking the original certificate.

Investors who are interested in enquiring about existing UAE GCAA approved AOCs are required to take note of the fact that an AOC is not a transferable commodity. GCAA will not entertain nor accept such requests.

The GCAA also comes across scenarios where some investors claim that they are not acquiring the AOC but rather they are taking over/buying/acquiring the business unit or the company itself. Such cases, if and when accepted by the GCAA, will be required to undergo a partial / full certification exercise for active organisations. In the case of inactive organisations or those that have the AOC/operations suspended (voluntarily or by the GCAA) or lapsed, the operator will be subjected to full recertification exercise.

Please also note the following:

1. The GCAA does not reinstate inactive/revoked/lapsed AOCs, hence it will require to undergo full certificate cycle.
2. Any AOC which is inactive or suspended or lapsed for more than 3 months will be revoked.
3. Voluntary suspension of an AOC by an operator is valid for 3 months and is renewable for another 3 months (if accepted by the GCAA). After this period, the AOC will be considered inactive/lapsed.
4. An AOC application process which is inactive or not progressing for 3 months will be terminated.
5. An AOC application which is not completed within 18 months from the date of application will be cancelled.