



CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (SIB)

NO: 01/2020 Revision 1

DATE: 30/06/2020

TITLE: CASA PNG MANAGEMENT OF AVIATION SAFETY RISKS RELATED TO COVID-19 & ADAPTIVE AUDIT/SURVEILLANCE (AAS) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AFTER 01 JULY 2020.

OBJECTIVE: Papua New Guinea lifted the State of Emergency (SOE) at midnight 16 June 2020, and replaced it with the National Pandemic Act 2020 and other enabling legislation. CASA staff have all returned to work and the government has progressively eased domestic travel restrictions. Overseas travel restrictions continue to remain in place subject to foreign government decision and conditions.

This Safety Information Bulletin provides information for the aviation industry on how CASA PNG intends to implement its plans to restart under the 'new normal' environment with its 'Adaptive Audit/Surveillance (AAS)' Programme and to manage aviation safety risks related to covid-19.

This guidance may change as the response to COVID-19 evolves.

APPLICABILITY: This SIB is applicable to personnel who work in air services, airlines and airports when undertaking an essential service including:

- (1) Security and border staff and air traffic control
- (2) Freight and Baggage handlers
- (3) Flight Crew, Aircraft maintenance engineers
- (4) Any other key personnel needed to keep the airport and airlines, and the movement of people and air freight operational.

BACKGROUND: On 23 March 2020, the Government of PNG declared an SOE throughout Papua New Guinea for 14 days with effect from Tuesday 24 March 2020. On 2nd April 2020, the Government further extended the SOE for 2 months requiring non-essential public service staff to stay at home. Accordingly CASA scaled back office hours and resumed the 'new normal' operations 04 May 2020 in accordance with Government instructions following a further 14 day extension of the SOE . On 16 June 2020, the PNG Government lifted the

Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG
P O Box 1941
Boroko
National Capital District

1

Telephone: + 675 325 7320
Fax: + 675 325 1919
Website: www.casapng.gov.pg

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SOE, and promulgated the National Pandemic Act 2020 and other enabling legislation to manage the spread of covid-19 in PNG.

CASA PNG ADAPTIVE AUDIT/SURVEILLANCE (AAS) PROGRAM AND COVID-19 RELATED AVIATION RISK MANAGEMENT FROM 01 JULY 2020: The following is a summary of how CASA plans to implement its Adaptive Audit/Surveillance (AAS) Programme and to manage the covid-19 related aviation safety risks from 01 July 2020:

(1) Organisational Certificates - Expiring after 01 July 2020:

These include Part 102, 109, 119, 129, 139, 140, 141, 144, 145, 146, 171, 172, 173, 174, and 175. Organisational approval certificates expiring after 01 July 2020, will require the certificate holder to submit renewal application forms and payment of the relevant application fees as prescribed in the applicable civil aviation rule.

(2) Organisational Certificates – Initial Issue applications after 01 July 2020:

CASA is now fully open for business under new normal arrangements. Applications for initial issue of organisational certificates will be processed on receipt of a properly completed application form and applicable application fees. CASA will initiate our covid-19 adaptive audit/surveillance 5-phase initial certification processes and make recommendation to the Director for the issue/renewal of organisational certificates.

(3) Individual licence and certificate - Applications after 01 July 2020:

The CASA Personnel Licensing branch is now open and staff will process all properly completed application forms submitted with the appropriate application fee.

(4) E-examinations online bookings after 01 July 2020:

E-examinations will restart in accordance with the revised July-December 2020 e-examination schedule available on the CASA website. Those who had their exam sittings cancelled due to COVID-19 SOE lockdown, will have their accounts automatically credited by ASPEQ and held for a free sitting at a future date. You may email vsamoa@casapng.gov.pg or htopa@casapng.gov.pg if you have any queries regarding the above.

(5) Simulator Training Facilities Usage – Foreign Locations:

Safety Information Bulletin (SIB) No. 02/20 provides specific guidance to operators who are unable to complete routine simulator checking due to simulator locations in Australia, USA, or other overseas locations being inaccessible during the travel restrictions imposed by the PNG or other Foreign Governments. Part 121 AOC holders should liaise with CASA Manager Flight Operations on flyingoperations@casapng.gov.pg in regards to the above.

(6) Emergency Directive for Expiring Medical Certificates:

Emergency Directive 20/ED/01 issued by the Director under section 64G of the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended) expired on 25 June 2020. Designated Aviation Medical Examiners (DAMEs) are available to conduct medical checks.

(7) **Exemption – from Personnel Licensing, currency requirements, flight reviews, proficiency checks, or training and checking requirements:**

Exemption **20/EXE/01** regarding these matters issued by the Director has expired.

(8) **Exemption – Rule 92.205 Dangerous Goods Recurrent Training:**

Exemption **20/EXE/02** has been issued by the Director regarding each person who is required under rule 92.203 to complete the prescribed Dangerous Goods (DG) training programme.

Under this Exemption, all persons who are unable to complete the required DG recurrent training must do so before *23 September 2020*, unless otherwise required by the Director.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

A. ICAO Doc. 10144 and the PNG Pandemic Act 2020.

CASA's adaptive audit and surveillance (AAS) program and Pandemic related risk management is based on and complies with guidelines provided by ICAO Doc.10144, the PNG Pandemic Act 2020 and other enabling legislation.

B. Remote Surveillance and Desktop Assessments

The National Pandemic Act 2020 may impose restrictions on movement from time to time and, routine on-site surveillance may not be possible.

In these instances, CASA surveillance will be conducted via remote and desktop monitoring, based on a safety risk management approach. Remote and desktop surveillance will be conducted for the review of documents, procedures and evidence of activities, such as operational and audit records, risk registers and safety performance indicators.

C. Technology enabled Remote Oversight

CASA audit checklists will be distributed to aviation document holders, and evidence of compliance to be provided by the organization itself. Certification audit meetings, fit and proper person tests, and remote or desktop audits may be conducted via teleconference and/or internet enabled communications software applications tailored to the technology and communications infrastructure and resources of the certificate holder, operator or service provider. This will likely be the only method of direct communication with a certificate holder when movement is restricted. Time should be prioritised in discussing changes, safety risks and hazards to ensure that the certificate holder is carrying out effective hazard identification. CASA will use video-conferencing technology such as Microsoft Teams, Skype, Zoom and other communication platforms to achieve its adaptive audit and surveillance outcomes.

D. Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication

The means to cooperate, collaborate and communicate (3Cs) are vital functions exercised by CASA in tackling global crises. Together, the “3Cs” are key to address the pandemic and achieve the best outcomes for the entire aviation community and society as a whole. CASA recognizes that these existing functions also continuously contribute to the effective implementation of our State Safety Program (SSP), which is important in managing aviation safety risks, including the impact of COVID-19 to the aviation system.

E. Degraded Capability due to Covid-19 impacts

CASA is mindful that other issues may arise for aviation document holders and the aviation sector that may be unique to the operation, or that has not been identified and addressed through CASA’s Adaptive Audit & Surveillance strategy and programme.

Aviation document holders and organisations that may have been affected due to the impact of COVID-19 such that they have degraded capacity or reduced capability to comply with the safety regulatory requirements, must engage with CASA as soon as possible.

CASA will take a flexible and pragmatic approach to working with and assisting such operators to find solutions to the unprecedented challenges we face as an aviation sector.


WILSON SAGATI, OBE
Director of Civil Aviation