



**Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal**

<b>COVID Circular 07/2020</b>			
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Preparation for resumption of flights (COVID-19 pandemic)</b>		
<b>Issuing Office:</b>	Flight Safety Standards Department	<b>Document No.:</b>	FSSD/COVID-19/ 07
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal has regularly updated airline community in Nepal regarding the precaution during COVID-19 pandemic and has issued various circulars, notices, guidance and recommendation to reduce spread of virus and ensure health safety of air travellers and aviation personnel. CAAN has further issued operational alleviation to support the aviation in Nepal in monthly basis with extension notice followed by the Quick Reference Guide (QRG) for each area of alleviation during COVID-19 pandemic period. Furthermore, CAAN is regularly in contact with aviation community in Nepal for the preparation of flight during or after the pandemic.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

This circular highlights minimum requirements to be complied by air operators to ensure that operational safety can be achieved when decision is taken to resume commercial flights. Furthermore, these recommended safety measures may also be a good guidance for the air operators engaged in flight operations during or after the pandemic period.

## **3. APPLICABILITY**

This circular has been issued to all air operators including commercial air transport operation and other air operators engaged in scheduled or charter operation.

## **4. SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT**

The resumption of commercial flights after long span of time requires proper risk assessment and required mitigation measures should be in place prior to commencement of operation. It is expected that basic safety management principle will be applied by the air operators taking into account the size and complexity of operation and operational context while resuming the service.

## **5. RECOMMENDED SAFETY MEASURES**

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal is concerned about the operational safety of aircraft and following recommendation for air operators when commercial flights are resumed during or after COVID-19 pandemic.

1. All flight operation, ground operation and maintenance personnel will be well trained on the circulars, guidance, notices, recommendation issued by Government of Nepal, CAAN and relevant aircraft manufacturer in the context of resumption of flight after COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Such briefing should take into account elements including but not limited weather, NOTAMS, ATC procedure, aerodrome procedures, changes in prevailing rules and regulation.
3. Air operators are recommended to consider conducting handling flight prior to commencing passenger operations if the aircraft has not been flown for more than fourteen days.
4. The first commercial flights should be conducted under Instructor or Examiner as far as practicable.
5. Air operator that is required to operate flight with first officer should plan the first commercial flight by the first officer having fairly good flight experience in type of aircraft. No fresh First Officer should be planned for the first commercial flight.

6. No first flight should be planned with crew who is under "OML" or other limitation or observation from enforcement action from CAAN or internal SMS investigation.
7. These flights may also be used to get three take-off/landing currency of pilots or gain handling currency.
8. Air operators should not plan for any first commercial flight by any flight crew who has extended flight and duty time limitation. Same principle will apply for maintenance engineer who should not have extended any rest period.
9. CAAN requires the air operators to conduct the required refresher or continuation training for flight crew, cabin crew or certifying and other staff are required by relevant CAAN regulation. If such trainings cannot be conducted by any reason in physical presence of the candidate, a temporary permission from CAAN should be obtained to conduct the web based training acceptable to CAAN. It will not relieve the air operator to conduct the regular standard refresher/ recurrent/continuation training.
10. Session for flight simulator and aircraft training should be reinforced with additional time to cover the COVID-10 special procedures, weather, adverse weather, NOTAM's, MEL/DCL etc.
11. The detailed procedure stipulated in the CAAN approved Aircraft Maintenance Program (AMP) as required by NCAR M.A.302 regarding preservation and de-preservation of aircraft should be followed.
12. Any additional recommendations from aircraft manufacturer in light of COVID-19 pandemic should be followed regarding preservation and return to service procedures should be followed by air operators.
13. Air operators should complete serviceability checks of hydraulics, electrical and flight control of each aircraft as recommended by the aircraft manufacturer.
14. All air operators should apply the procedure for the extraction of animals like rats, snakes etc. (rodents) by suitable fumigation agent from aircraft lying in the aerodrome during COVID-19 pandemic.
15. Air operators should ensure that no aircraft will be released on MEL during the first flight of the aircraft after resuming the commercial flights in post COVID-19 pandemic.
16. Any concession on the critical aircraft system for the first commercial flight should be discouraged by the air operator.

## **6. ISSUING AUTHORITY**

Director General

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal

## **7. CONTACT OFFICE**

*For more information, please contact:*

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