 <p>SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p align="center">REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p align="center">CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p> <p align="center">GENERAL NOTICE # PEL-2020/005 Revision 5</p>	<p align="center">SACAA Private Bag X 73 Halfway House 1685</p>
<p>Tel: (011) 545-1323</p> <p>E-Mail: niemandj@caa.co.za</p>		<p align="center">DATED: 08 July 2020</p>

CONDUCTING SKILLS TESTS DURING COVID-19 LEVEL 3 LOCKDOWN

1. Applicability

- 1.1. This General Notice is applicable to all relevant Parts that require a flight test or check conducted during the Covid-19 lockdown in terms of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 2011 (As amended).
- 1.2. This General Notice is valid from 2020-07-07 until superseded by an amended notice.

2. Purpose of this General Notice

- 2.1 This General Notice serves to ensure compliance with the content of the Government Gazettes No 43375 (*Amendment of direction 5 of Directions published under Government Notice No. 438, in Government Gazette No. 43189 of 31 March 2020*) and 43493 (*Amendment of direction 5 of Directions*) to ensure that the aviation industry is conversant with the procedures to follow.

3. Background

- 3.1 In response to the content of Government Gazette No. 43375, the SACAA issued NOTAM A1773/20 during June 2020, later superseded by NOTAM A2040/20.
- 3.2 On 2020-07-06 NOTAM A2135/20 was issued, replacing earlier NOTAMs and substituting previous directives with new ones. These new directives are addressed in this General Notice.
- 3.2 With immediate effect and subject to the conditions below, Designated Flight Examiners (DFEs) and Flight Instructors (FIs) are hereby authorized to conduct testing and checking activities without obtaining prior approval. These activities include:
 - a) skills tests
 - b) revalidation checks
 - c) competency checks
 - d) six-monthly proficiency checks.

3.3 Prior authorizations are replaced by measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 exposure and transfer. DFEs and FIs intending to conduct checks independently of an ATO or operator will be required to submit such procedures to the SACAA for once-off authorization. Details are provided below.

3.4 A grace period is allowed for. Details are provided below.

4. Conditions

4.1 The authorization above is subject to the following conditions:

- a) All licensing requirements, as prescribed by the SA Civil Aviation Regulations, 2011 (as amended) and associated Technical Standards shall be complied with.
- b) The authorization does not add or supersede any licence, rating or designation privileges other than those existing prior to the commencement of the lockdown period.
- c) Normal, sound testing principles shall be adhered to and no dilution of testing quality is allowed for any reason, other than allowed for in existing testing guidelines.
- d) In case of a skills test by a Designated Flight Examiner, the DFE designation shall be valid.
- e) Full stop landings away from base are allowed provided that no embarkation or disembarkation occurs except in an emergency. After vacating the landing runway, the aircraft is required to return to the holding point immediately for take-off.
- f) No non-essential crew or passengers are allowed on board the aircraft.
- g) A copy of this General Notice shall be carried on board the aircraft in addition to all legally required flight documentation.
- h) The Covid-19 protocol developed for use during flight operations, referred to below, should be adhered to and the signed checklist be available for inspection during the operation.

4.2 Covid-19 procedures and checklist (ATO and operator):

- a) In the case of testing and checking conducted under the auspices of an Aviation Training Organization (ATO) or operator, the organizational Covid-19 protocols shall be adhered to and a copy of the organizational protocol and signed checklist shall be carried on board, as applicable.

4.3 Covid-19 procedures and checklist (non-organizational):


- a) In the case of checking conducted independently of an ATO or operator, the DFE or FI shall develop a standard Covid-19 protocol which is to be used during such operations, accompanied by a signed procedural checklist.

- b) The procedures shall be recorded (electronically or in hard copy) and accessible. They must demonstrate measures that will be put in place to minimise the risk of exposure to and spreading of Covid-19, as provided for in the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, the Directions issued by Ministers of respective government departments and appropriate general guidelines. The procedures developed should not compromise flight safety and be realistic and practical and reflect sound principles underlying the mitigation of infectious disease exposure and transmission. The following governmental websites provide useful general guidance in this regard -
- <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>
<https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>
- c) Testing and checking, as described above, may only commence after receiving written authorization from the SACAA. The request for authorization must be sent by email, along with the signed, scanned procedural checklist, to the address: pel.skillstest@caa.co.za
- d) The email heading shall contain the phrase “Non-organizational Covid-19 checklist:” followed first by the DFE’s or FI’s surname and then the initials.
- e) The scanned checklist shall be named in a similar manner.
- f) The email content does not have to be elaborate but should nevertheless explain that the DFE or FI wishes to use the procedures and checklist as Covid-19 risk mitigation during testing and checking activities.
- g) Both the email and checklist shall contain details of the DFE’s or FI’s examiner capacity, as well as full name and surname, licence number and contact number(s).
- h) The SACAA shall acknowledge receipt in writing and record the submitted procedures. This once-off written authorization will remain effective until voluntarily altered or mandated by revised directives.
- i) The purpose of the SACAA authorization is not to confirm the safety or medical correctness of procedures, but to formalize them. Adherence to the procedures is the responsibility of the examiner.
- j) A copy of the SACAA acknowledgement of receipt shall be submitted with each licensing application for which the DFE or FI acted as examiner, failing which the application will not be accepted by the Authority.
- k) It is recommended that requests for authorization be submitted at least 3 days prior to the flight test or check to ensure timeous approval.

5. Grace period

5.1 To accommodate the transition from prior authorization to risk mitigation procedures, the following grace period is allowed for:

- a) Tests for which authorization was given prior to 2020-07-08 may still be conducted without submission of a Covid-19 checklist. It is advised that examiners nevertheless voluntarily implement such procedures in the meantime.
- b) The Authority will still review requests submitted prior to 2020-07-08 and give authorization where appropriate.
- c) From 2020-07-08 onwards, the submission of the Covid-19 checklist is required.

Issued by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)		
	JOHAN NIEMAND	08 July 2020
SENIOR MANAGER: PERSONNEL LICENSING	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE