



GUIDELINES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CARBON OFFSETTING AND REDUCTION SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION (CORSIA) IMPLEMENTATION

**SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CARBON OFFSETTING AND
REDUCTIO SCHEME FOR INATERNATIONAL AVIATION (CORSIA)
IMPLEMENTATION**

DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2026

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. The purpose of this document is to:
- 1.1.2. Provide direction to aeroplane operators with the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).
- 1.1.3. Support consistent and transparent implementation of CORSIA
- 1.1.4. Clarify roles and responsibilities of aeroplane operators and the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)
- 1.1.5. Ensure effective Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of CO₂ emissions from international aviation activities

2. ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
AECS	Aviation Environmental Compliance Specialist
AEP	Aviation Environmental Protection
AO	Aeroplane Operator
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation



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E: ASI	Executive: Aviation Safety Infrastructure
EMP	Emissions Monitoring Plan
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
SARP's	Standard and Recommended Practices

3. INTRODUCTION

CORSIA is established under ICAO Annex 16, Volume IV (Environmental Protection – CORSIA) and applies to international flights between participating States.

These Guidelines are issued in support of:

- South African Civil Aviation Regulations
- ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)

For the purpose of CORSIA, all references to emissions in these guidelines refer exclusively to Carbon (CO₂) emissions, in accordance with ICAO Annex 16, Volume IV.

4. APPLICABILITY

These guidelines apply to:

- Aeroplane operators conducting international flights as defined under CORSIA
- Operators subject to CORSIA MRV requirements

Exemptions and applicability thresholds shall be determined in accordance with ICAO provisions and applicable national regulations.



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5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Aeroplane Operators

Aeroplane operators are responsible for:

- 5.1.1 Monitoring fuel use and CO₂ emissions from international flights
- 5.1.2 Developing and maintaining the Emissions Monitoring Plan (EMP)
- 5.1.3 Submitting annual emissions reports within prescribed timelines (Annexure 1)
- 5.1.4 Ensuring emission data is verified by an accredited third-party verifier
- 5.1.5 Meeting offsetting obligations, (where applicable)
- 5.1.6 Maintaining accurate records and supporting documentation

5.2 South African Civil Aviation Authority

The SACAA is responsible for:

- 5.2.1 Developing the Regulatory framework
- 5.2.2 Reviewing and approving EMP's
- 5.2.3 Assessing emissions report
- 5.2.4 Ensuring national reporting to ICAO within prescribed timelines
- 5.2.5 Providing guidance to operators
- 5.2.6 Monitoring compliance and addressing non-compliance, where necessary

6 EMISSIONS MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Aeroplanes operators shall:

- Develop an EMP consistent with ICAO guidelines
- Use approved fuel monitoring methods
- Ensure data completeness

Any material changes to operations or monitoring methodologies shall be communicated to the SACAA.



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7 REPORTING AND VERIFICATION

7.1 Emissions Reporting

7.1.1 Aeroplane operators shall submit:

- (i) Annual emissions reports covering international flights
- (ii) Supporting documentation as required

7.2 Verification

- (i) Emissions reports shall be verified by ICAO accredited verifiers
- (ii) Operators are responsible for the accuracy of reported data
- (iii) Verification statements shall be submitted together with emissions reports

8 OFFSETTING OBLIGATIONS

8.1 Where offsetting obligations apply:

8.1.1 Aeroplane operators shall meet offsetting requirements in accordance with ICAO guidelines

8.1.2 Only ICAO eligible emissions units may be used.

8.1.3 Records of emissions unit purchased, and cancellations shall be retained and made available to the SACAA upon request.

9 SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS (SAF) UNDER CORSIA

9.1 Aeroplane operators using SAF may claim emissions reductions under CORSIA provided that:

9.1.1 The fuel meets ICAO sustainability and certification criteria

9.1.2 Proper documentation and traceability are maintained

9.1.3 SAF usage is reported in accordance with ICAO methodologies



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The SACAA encourages operators to explore SAF uptake as a long-term emissions reduction measure.



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ANNEXURE 1: CORSIA IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE FOR 2026

CORSIA IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINES (2026)

In accordance with Appendix 1 to Annex 16 Volume IV, these are the key remaining CORSIA Implementation deadlines for 2026:

- 1 January to 31 December 2026: Aeroplane Operators (AO's) monitor their 2026 CO₂ emissions in accordance with their approved Emissions Monitoring Plan
- 30 November 2026: State to calculate and inform the operators of their total final offsetting requirements for 2025
- 30 November 2026: State to calculate and inform the operators of their total final offsetting requirements for 2024
- 30 November 2026: State to upload their 2025 list of aeroplane operators and verification bodies



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