


<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH AFRICAN</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p><b>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</b></p> <p>CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p> <p><b>AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR</b></p>	<p>CAA Private Bag x73 Halfway House 1685</p>
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**GENERAL**

**SPECIAL AIR SERVICES**

**OPERATION AT SPECIAL AIR EVENTS**

- ☛ Indicates changes.
- ☛ This AIC replaces AIC 19-1 dated 08-01-18.

**Introduction**

- ☛ *It has become increasingly clear that important management responsibilities, processes and procedures at air shows, and related events, particularly regarding flight operations are not correctly understood and therefore not always complied with in all respects. In terms of the agreement entered into between the Authority and the Recreation Aviation Administration of South Africa (RAASA), the latter "shall be responsible for the control and co-ordination of all Special Air Events including but not limited to Airshows, as well as for provincial, national and international sporting aviation displays including events and competitions in accordance with the guidelines approved by the CAA. The intent of this AIC is aimed at clarifying the issues in this regard. It must be reiterated that the onus to comply with all statutory requirements rests with the event organiser. The risks and legal liabilities implicit to non-compliance with such requirements must be clearly understood by the organising entity. The following is a summary of the basic requirements and principles regarding the management of these events, including flight operations and demonstrations which may take place on any part of the runways or any portion of the airfield on the demarcated airside.*

*"For the purpose of this AIC, a special air event shall be:*

- (a) *Any activity which imposed an increased workload on the pilot in an aircraft in order to participate or compete in any event designed to either entertain or display to a crowd of spectators, or achieve a result which result shall be measured against other such pilot's in the same event; or*
- (b) *Any event where any participant whether solo or as part of a group, flies any sequence designed to have entertainment or educational value, shall be deemed to be a special air event, and the said pilot shall be deemed to be a participant at such event; and*
- (c) *Notwithstanding the qualifications of a and b above, the size of the crowd or number of spectators or any other matter relating to the crowd or spectators shall not be deemed to have bearing on this qualification."*
- (d) *The holder of an appropriate Air Operating Certificate issued in terms of the Air Services Licensing Act (115 of 1990) providing for the execution of aerial display as approved by the Director of Civil Aviation, will be exempt from the requirements prescribed by this AIC, but will still be bound to the normal Rules and Regulations or as described in the Operators Manual of Procedures.*

1. **In the case of general management related issues;**

1.1 **Requirements**

The organiser of the event shall -

- ☞ (a) Apply to the RAASA for individual approval for each particular event.
- ☞ (b) Allow and assist the event safety officer to conduct a pre-event safety audit of all aspects of flight and airside operations pertaining to the proposed event.
- ☞ (c) Ensure that the safety audit includes every aspect required by the RAASA related to such events.
- ☞ (d) Ensure that a suitable Emergency response plan is in place and that the emergency service providers have been alerted prior to the event should the need arise for an emergency response.
- ☞ (e) Upon completion of the event, complete and present to the RAASA a safety report covering the event.
- ☞ (f) The Recreation Aviation Administration of South Africa

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1.2 **Conditions of Approval**

- ☞ The approval for execution of the special air event shall be granted by the RAASA on condition that –
- ☞ (a) The safety officer has communicated the results of the pre-event audit to the RAASA.
- ☞ (b) The event shall be conducted under the supervision of the RAASA or its appointed officials.
- ☞ (c) The approval shall be a one-time approval for the particular event at the particular venue.

1.3 **General Rules**

The organiser must further note that -

- ☞ (a) The approval shall be valid for the particular event.
- ☞ (b) RAASA or SACAA may withhold final approval based on the Director's decision.
- ☞ (c) The event safety officer at any air event shall be the de facto representative of the RAASA. In this regard the event safety officer shall have the authority, at his sole discretion and, at any time prior to or during the airshow to cancel any display, demonstration or the complete air show in the interest of safety.
- ☞ (d) The RAASA may appoint a safety oversight officer who will advise the event safety officer when issues detrimental to safety may arise.

2. **In the case of flight operations and air displays including Aerobatic operations;**

2.1 **Requirements**

The display candidate shall -

- ☛ (a) Be the holder of a valid display authorisation as issued by the RAASA.
- (b) Be the holder of a valid aerobatic rating if he/she wishes to include any aerobatic manoeuvres in his/her display.
- (c) Have experience in the particular sequence of his/her proposed display, and submit such detail to the safety officer before the event.
- ☛ (d) Be approved to fly a particular sequence as part of an approved mentorship program as approved by the RAASA.

2.2 **Conditions of Approval**

☛ The final approval for execution of any particular display at the air event shall be granted by the RAASA on condition that –

- (a) At the sole discretion of the event safety officer, each display candidate shall demonstrate for validation purposes his/her proposed display sequence.
- (b) The air display authorisation or validation exercise mentioned in (a) above had been conducted with particular cognisance to:
  - (i) Runway length;
  - (ii) Serviceability of on board and airfield equipment;
  - (iii) Meteorological conditions on the day of the display;
  - (iv) Human factors considerations applicable to the display pilot. This has to be considered in terms of a declaration on the day of the display by the display pilot on the prescribed and supplied form regarding;
    - (aa) His/her ability and capability to safely perform his/her proposed display;
    - (bb) all aspects of his/her medical fitness including his/her fitness for his/her proposed display; and
    - (cc) all aspects relating to previous disciplinary issues if any.
- (c) The candidate produces for inspection his/her display authorisation and aerobatic rating (if applicable) on the day of the event.
- (d) All display pilots have attended the pilot briefing on the day of the event and prior to commencement of the display.

2.3 **General Rules**

Each pilot with an approved display authorisation must note that –

- (a) Any display validation approval is valid only for the particular event as applied for.
- (b) The individual's display logbook must be endorsed by the event safety officer. This will serve as proof of currency.
- (c) Deviation from the approved sequence during the display may result in the immediate cancellation of the remainder of the particular display by the safety officer.

- ☞ (d) *Under no circumstances may any passengers be carried in display aircraft.*
- (e) *Under no circumstances may any training be conducted during a display, or any display flight regarded as a training flight of any kind.*
- ☞ (f) *Notwithstanding the provision in (e) above, a RAASA approved mentor, within the proper classification category may be allowed to accompany a particular pilot during a display. This instance will be subject to approval of the event safety officer.*

**3. In the case of other demonstrations which may take place on any part of the runways or any portion of the airfield on the airside;**

**3.1 Requirements**

*The display candidate shall -*

- ☞ (a) *Be the holder of a valid display authorisation as recognised by the RAASA.*
- (b) *Have proven experience in the operation and/or display of the particular equipment to be used in the display. This includes all peripheral equipment required.*
- (c) *The candidate must successfully demonstrate his ability and general style of conduct to prevent damage to equipment or injury or unnecessary discomfort to spectators.*
- (d) *Have experience in the particular sequence of his/her proposed display, and submit such detail to the safety officer before the event.*

**3.2 Conditions of Approval**

- ☞ *The final approval for execution of the proposed airside operation or display shall be granted by the RAASA on condition that –*
- (a) *Each display candidate has demonstrated for authorisation or validation purposes his/her proposed air-side operation or display sequence to the event safety officer.*
- (b) *The air side display authorisation or validation exercise mentioned in (a) above had been conducted with due consideration to:*
  - (i) *Distance from spectators;*
  - (ii) *Distance from other aircraft and/or equipment;*
  - (iii) *Line of general movement relative to spectators, aircraft and/or other equipment;*
  - (iv) *Condition and status of critical control mechanisms in any equipment to be used in the display or in support of the main equipment other than airworthy aircraft, used in the display, including a serviceable history of the equipment and its ancillaries;*
  - (v) *Quantity, stability condition, safe radius of danger, particular trajectory vectors (if applicable) of any pyrotechnics;*
  - (vi) *Runway length;*
  - (vii) *Serviceability of on-board and related airfield equipment;*
  - (viii) *Meteorological conditions on the day of the air show event;*
  - (ix) *Human factors considerations applicable to the display pilot. This has to be considered in terms of a declaration on the day of the display by the display pilot on the prescribed and supplied form regarding;*

- (aa) *His/her ability and capability to safely perform his/her proposed display,*
  - (bb) *all aspects of his/her medical fitness including his/her fitness for his/her proposed display,*
  - (cc) *all aspects relating to previous disciplinary issues if any.*
- a. *All display participants have attended the briefing on the day of the air event and prior to commencement of the event.*

**3.3 General Rules**

*Each participant must note that –*

- (a) *Any display approval is valid only for the particular event as applied for. An approval for each special air event must be obtained in the manner as described in this AIC.*
- (b) *He/she must be able to demonstrate a continuous competency in operation and display of the equipment.*
- (c) *The event safety officer may withdraw any approval at his sole discretion at any time in the interest of safety.*



**DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION**