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AIRWORTHINESS

ADMINISTRATION

RE-INTRODUCTION OF EXPIRY DATES ON CERTIFICATES OF AIRWORTHINESS

1. *The Commissioner for Civil Aviation has determined that with effect from the 1st April 2004, all certificates of airworthiness will be issued with an expiry date that coincides with the annual date on which the currency fee for that aircraft is payable. This determination is made in terms of Regulation 21.08.9 of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997 which rules that-*
 - (1) *a certificate of airworthiness shall be valid until—*
 - (a) *it expires, if an expiry date has been determined by the Commissioner; or ...”*

2. *Since the establishment of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a large percentage of aircraft owners have not been fulfilling their obligation to pay currency fees in terms of Regulation 21.08.2(5), of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997. As a result, the CAA has been deprived of revenue to carry out its mandate of regulating and ensuring aviation safety. The situation has further led to the undermining of the intent of the certificates of airworthiness. This regulation determines that -*

“(5) The holder of a standard, restricted or special category of airworthiness certificate shall pay the annual currency fee as prescribed in Part 187, applicable to the type of certificate of airworthiness, on the anniversary date of such certificate.”

3. *The lack of an expiry date on the certificate of airworthiness has also had the effect of complicating the collective efforts of the ICAO Contracting States in ensuring the airworthiness of aircraft flying in their airspace.*

4. *Furthermore, this action is taken to align the collection of revenue due in terms of the “currency fees” that are collected in terms of Regulation 21.08.2(5), of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997, with the basic objective of safety.*

5. *In order to aid aircraft owners with the fulfillment of their obligation, the CAA will issue reminders for the renewal of their certificates of airworthiness two months before the expiry date. The responsibility to renew certificates, however still remains with aircraft owners; non receipt of a reminder from the CAA shall not absolve aircraft owners from the obligation to renew their certificates.*

6. *The new certificates of airworthiness will be issued upon full payment of the currency fee in compliance with Regulation 21.08.2(5) of the Civil Aviation Regulations, 1997, including any outstanding currency fees, if any. In the event of the currency fee not being fully paid on or before its due date, i.e. at the anniversary of the certificate’s original date of issue, the said certificate shall become invalid.*

7. *Certificates of airworthiness with no expiry date shall be returned to the CAA within thirty days of the due date of the currency fee.*