

INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUE No 1 of 2026

15 October 2026

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CIVIL AVIATION AMENDMENT ACT, 2021 (ACT NO. 22 OF 2021)

Dear Industry Stakeholders,

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) wishes to inform industry of the commencement of the Civil Aviation Amendment Act, 2021 (Act No. 22 of 2021) (Amendment Act).

The President assented to the Amendment Act on 31 March 2022 and signed the commencement proclamation on 16 September 2026. The proclamation was published in the Government Gazette on 12 October 2026, bringing the Amendment Act into operation.

This marks an important milestone for South African civil aviation. Key changes include the following:

Independence of aircraft accident and incident investigations

The Amendment Act provides for the functional independence of aircraft accidents and incidents investigations through the Aviation Safety Investigation Board. The Minister of Transport recently announced the appointment of the Board, which will oversee these investigations.

The Department of Transport is leading the separation and transition process. Further information on the transition arrangements affecting industry will be communicated as the process progresses.

Changes to the SACAA's mandate and regulatory processes

The Amendment Act expressly incorporates environmental protection into the SACAA's oversight responsibilities, alongside aviation safety and security. It also introduces changes to governance, appeals, exemptions, and enforcement processes.

Industry stakeholders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the amended legislation and the provisions applicable to their operations.

Pertinent aspects which require regulatory changes have already been implemented through the 31st Amendment Regulations which were approved by the Minister on 19 March 2025 and promulgated on 28 March 2025. The Commissioner also approved Civil Aviation Technical Standards 2 and 5 and they all came into effect on 12 October 2026.

Change in statutory title

The Amendment Act changes the designation of Director of Civil Aviation to Commissioner for Civil Aviation (CCA). This change will be reflected in the SACAA's official documents and future communications.

We appreciate industry's continued cooperation as we give effect to these legislative changes and strengthen South Africa's civil aviation system.

Kind regards,

Electronically signed

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Ms. Poppy KHOZA
Commissioner for Civil Aviation