Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 225

Adopted 9 May 2023

**Procedures for the Recognition of Foreign Civil Aviation Flight Crew Licences**

*Issued pursuant to*

*Section 30, Paragraph two and Section 32, Paragraph three of the law On Aviation*

**I. General Provisions**

1. This Regulation prescribes:

1.1. the procedures by which the State agency Civil Aviation Agency (hereinafter – the Civil Aviation Agency) shall recognise a civil aviation personnel licence issued by another country as valid in the territory of the Republic of Latvia;

1.2. the requirements for the civil aviation personnel.

2. Terms used in this Regulation:

2.1. Part-BFCL licence – the licence referred to in Article 2(14) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2018/395 of 13 March 2018 laying down detailed rules for the operation of balloons as well as for the flight crew licensing for balloons pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

2.2. Part-FCL licence – the licence referred to in Article 2(1) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011 of 3 November 2011 laying down technical requirements and administrative procedures related to civil aviation aircrew pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereinafter – Regulation No 1178/2011);

2.3. Part-SFCL licence – the licence referred to in Article 2(12) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1976 of 14 December 2018 laying down detailed rules for the operation of sailplanes as well as for the flight crew licensing for sailplanes pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereinafter – Regulation No 2018/1976);

2.4. the type rating of Annex I to Regulation No 2018/1139 – an aircraft rating which gives the privilege to conduct flights with an aircraft which conforms with the criteria specified in point (a), (b) or (d) of point 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and amending Regulations (EC) No 2111/2005, (EC) No 1008/2008, (EU) No 996/2010, (EU) No 376/2014 and Directives 2014/30/EU and 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 552/2004 and (EC) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3922/91 (hereinafter – Regulation No 2018/1139), and an aircraft which conforms with the criteria specified in point (c) of Annex I to Regulation No 2018/1139 if it is equipped with a turbo-prop or turbo-jet, or on board of which three or more persons, including the flight crew member, are present during the flight.

3. The requirements of this Regulation shall apply to a civil aviation flight crew member who has obtained the licence of a flight crew member in another country (hereinafter – the foreign flight crew member) and wishes to conduct flights with an aircraft registered in the Civil Aviation Aircraft Register of the Republic of Latvia.

4. The following shall be eligible for the recognition of the foreign flight crew licence in the Republic of Latvia:

4.1. a citizen of Latvia, a non-citizen of Latvia or a foreigner who, in accordance with the Immigration Law, has legal grounds to stay in the Republic of Latvia;

4.2. a foreigner who has entered into an employment relationship with the aircraft operator for the handling of an aircraft registered in the Civil Aviation Aircraft Register of the Republic of Latvia. In such a case, the foreign flight crew licence must contain a valid rating for the aircraft class or type giving the privilege to conduct flights with an aircraft in operation of the relevant aircraft operator.

5. Recognition is not required for the following foreign flight crew licence:

5.1. for a Part-FCL licence, including where the type rating of Annex I to Regulation No 2018/1139 is entered in the Part-FCL licence or Annex thereto;

5.2. for a Part-BFCL licence;

5.3. for a Part-SFCL licence.

6. The foreign flight crew licence to which the derogation specified in Paragraph 5 of this Regulation does not apply shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in one of the following procedures:

6.1. validation process – the foreign flight crew member shall receive a certificate of licence validation the term of which shall not be longer than 12 months or until the expiry of the term of validity of the rating (which is confirmed) in the licence of the foreign flight crew member, taking into account which term expires sooner;

6.2. conversion process – the foreign flight crew member shall receive the relevant flight crew member licence of the Republic of Latvia which shall be drawn up in conformity with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for the issuance of a civil aviation flight crew licence.

7. If the foreign flight crew licence is recognised in the validation process, the certificate of licence validation issued to the foreign flight crew member may be extended once for a period not exceeding 12 months if the foreign flight crew member to which:

7.1. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/723 of 4 March 2020 laying down detailed rules with regard to the acceptance of third-country certification of pilots and amending Regulation (EU) No 1178/2011 (hereinafter – Regulation No 2020/723) is applicable complies with the requirements of Article 4(3) of the abovementioned Regulation;

7.2. the requirements of Regulation No 2020/723 do not apply has commenced the conversion process of the foreign flight crew licence but has not completed it for justified reasons.

8. If the services provided by the Civil Aviation Agency specified in this Regulation are paid services, the applicant has the obligation to pay for the service in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the price list of public paid services of the Civil Aviation Agency before receipt of the service.

**II. Procedures for the Recognition of the Foreign Flight Crew Licence**

9. In order for the Civil Aviation Agency to initiate one of the processes for the recognition of the foreign flight crew licence referred to in Paragraph 6 of this Regulation, the foreign flight crew member shall submit the following documents:

9.1. a submission specifying:

9.1.1. personal data (given name, surname, date of birth, citizenship, address of the place of residence);

9.1.2. information on the foreign flight crew licence (type and number of the licence, name of the issuing country and institution, validity period of the licence, ratings contained therein and the validity periods thereof) which is intended to be validated or converted, and also information on other foreign flight crew licences (type and number of the licence, name of the issuing country and institution, the validity of the licence and information on whether the licence is limited, suspended or revoked) which have been issued to the foreign flight crew member;

9.1.3. the purpose of the validation or conversion of a licence;

9.1.4. a statement that:

9.1.4.1. the information on the flight crew licences issued to the person, the ratings contained therein (valid or invalid), and the validation thereof is true;

9.1.4.2. the person is informed that administrative liability may set in for the failure to provide information, the incorrect provision of information or the provision of false information;

9.1.4.3. the person is informed that, in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the field of aviation, information on the flight crew licences, ratings, and flight experience is transferred to the competent authorities of other countries or may be requested from the abovementioned authorities, and also that such information is being obtained and stored by the Civil Aviation Agency to oversee the activity of persons in the field of civil aviation;

9.2. a copy of the foreign flight crew licence to be validated or converted;

9.3. a copy of a medical certificate or medical statement (according to the requirements for obtaining the relevant flight crew licence);

9.4. copies of the pilot logbooks (the last three pages showing the total number of hours of flight experience of the foreign flight crew member).

10. If the submission referred to in Sub-paragraph 9.1 of this Regulation is submitted by a foreigner who has entered into an employment relationship with the aircraft operator for handling an aircraft registered in the Civil Aviation Aircraft Register of the Republic of Latvia, the relevant aircraft operator shall submit a letter to the Civil Aviation Agency certifying that the employment relationship has been established with the applicant.

11. If the foreign flight crew member complies with the criteria referred to in Paragraph 4 of this Regulation, the Civil Aviation Agency shall prepare a request on the validity of the foreign flight crew licence and shall send the relevant licences to the issuing authority.

12. If the foreign flight crew member has more than one foreign flight crew licence, the Civil Aviation Agency shall send the request referred to in Paragraph 11 of this Regulation to all issuing authorities.

13. In the case referred to in Paragraph 12 of this Regulation, the confirmation of the foreign flight crew licence shall be obtained from all issuing authorities.

14. After receipt of the confirmations of the foreign flight crew licence referred to in Paragraphs 11 and 12 of this Regulation, the Civil Aviation Agency shall immediately inform the foreign flight crew member thereof.

15. After receipt of the information referred to in Paragraph 14 of this Regulation, the foreign flight crew member shall fulfil the requirements specified for the foreign flight crew member in Chapter III of this Regulation.

16. If the foreign flight crew member has fulfilled all the requirements referred to in Chapter III of this Regulation, the Civil Aviation Agency shall issue accordingly:

16.1. a certificate of licence validation which includes information on:

16.1.1. the issuing authority of the certificate of licence validation – the details and logo of the Civil Aviation Agency;

16.1.2. the foreign flight crew member – the given name, surname, date of birth, nationality;

16.1.3. the validated foreign flight crew licence – the name of the issuing authority, number, ratings;

16.1.4. the validity of the certificate of licence validation and the limitations thereof;

16.2. the flight crew licence of Latvia which shall be drawn up in conformity with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for the issuance of the civil aviation flight crew licence.

17. The Civil Aviation Agency may take the decision to refuse the recognition of the foreign flight crew licence if:

17.1. the foreign flight crew member does not meet the criteria referred to in Paragraph 4 of this Regulation;

17.2. the Civil Aviation Agency has not received confirmation of the foreign flight crew licence from all issuing authorities;

17.3. the confirmation of the foreign flight crew licence shall specify the information on the limitation, suspension or revocation of the foreign flight crew licence in connection with the creation of hazards for the flight safety;

17.4. the foreign flight crew member has provided false information on the foreign flight crew licence at his or her disposal, including has failed to indicate information on all the foreign flight crew licences that he or she has or has had;

17.5. the foreign flight crew member has failed to comply with the requirements for the recognition or conversion of a licence specified in Regulation No 2020/723 or Chapter III of this Regulation accordingly.

**III. Requirements Determined for the Foreign Flight Crew Member**

18. A private pilot licence (PPL), commercial pilot licence (CPL), multi-pilot licence (MPL), airline transport pilot licence (ATPL), sailplane pilot licence (SPL), and balloon pilot licence (BPL) issued in a third country in accordance with Annex 1 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 7 December 1944 (hereinafter – the Convention) shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in accordance with the requirements laid down in Regulation No 2020/723.

19. The requirements laid down in Article 5(b) of Regulation No 2020/723 shall be attested by passing theoretical examinations in the following subjects: laws and regulations governing aviation and operating procedures.

20. The flight engineer licence (FEL) issued in accordance with Annex 1 to the Convention shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in accordance with the validation process if:

20.1. the foreign flight crew member has a valid flight engineer licence (FEL) with a valid type rating;

20.2. the foreign flight crew member has at least a valid Class 2 medical certificate issued in accordance with Annex 1 to the Convention;

20.3. the foreign flight crew member is aged between 21 and 60 years;

20.4. following receipt of the flight engineer licence, the foreign flight crew member has flown at least 500 hours in the status of a flight engineer;

20.5. the foreign flight crew member has passed the following theoretical examinations of the Civil Aviation Agency at the level of a private pilot: laws and regulations governing aviation and human performance;

20.6. the foreign flight crew member has passed the skill test with the relevant aircraft type.

21. The flight engineer licence (FEL) issued in accordance with Annex 1 to the Convention shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in accordance with the conversion process if:

21.1. the foreign flight crew member has a valid flight engineer licence (FEL) with a valid type rating;

21.2. the foreign flight crew member has at least a valid Class 2 medical certificate issued in accordance with Annex IV to Regulation No 1178/2011;

21.3. the foreign flight crew member is aged between 21 and 60 years;

21.4. following receipt of the flight engineer licence, the foreign flight crew member has flown at least 500 hours in the status of a flight engineer;

21.5. the foreign flight crew member has passed the following theoretical examinations of the Civil Aviation Agency at the level of a private pilot:

21.5.1. in general subjects – the laws and regulations governing aviation, human performance, communications;

21.5.2. in specific subjects – principles of flight, operational procedures, flight performance and planning, aircraft general knowledge;

21.6. the foreign flight crew member has passed the skill test with the relevant aircraft type.

22. On the basis of an assessment provided by a training organisation which is certified in conformity with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for the certification of civil aviation flight crew member training providers and for which the flight engineer training course programme for the relevant aircraft type has been approved, the Civil Aviation Agency may, in part or in full, exempt the foreign flight crew member from the taking of the theoretical examinations referred to in Sub-paragraphs 20.5 and 21.5 of this Regulation if the foreign flight crew member has obtained a higher education in the speciality of the flight engineer.

23. If the foreign flight crew member has flight experience of a military flight engineer, it may be counted in the number of flight hours referred to in Sub-paragraph 20.4 or 21.4 of this Regulation, but not more than 50 % of the number of flight hours referred to in Sub-paragraph 20.4 or 21.4 of this Regulation.

24. The leisure pilot licence issued in accordance with foreign national legal acts shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in accordance with the validation process if:

24.1. the foreign flight crew member has a valid leisure pilot licence with a valid rating;

24.2. the foreign flight crew member has a valid medical certificate at least at the level of the light aircraft pilot licence (LAPL) issued in accordance with Annex 1 to the Convention, or a medical statement of the driver of category B vehicles;

24.3. the foreign flight crew member has reached the age of 18 years;

24.4. the foreign flight crew member has a certificate attesting that the English language proficiency of the applicant conforms to at least the operational level (Level 4) in accordance with the requirements of Annex 1 to the Convention;

24.5. the foreign flight crew member has an opinion issued by a training organisation which has been certified in conformity with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for the certification of civil aviation flight crew member training providers that his or her level of theoretical knowledge and capacity to conduct practical flights conforms to the requirements for obtaining the leisure pilot licence in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for issuing a civil aviation flight crew licence;

24.6. the foreign flight crew member has passed a skill test with the relevant class or type of aircraft.

25. The leisure pilot licence issued in accordance with the requirements of foreign national legal acts shall be recognised by the Civil Aviation Agency in accordance with the conversion process if:

25.1. the foreign flight crew member has a valid leisure pilot licence with a valid rating;

25.2. the foreign flight crew member has a valid medical certificate at least at the level of the light aircraft pilot licence (LAPL) issued in accordance with the requirements of Annex IV to Regulation No 1178/2011, or a medical statement of the driver of category B vehicles;

25.3. the foreign flight crew member has reached the age of 18 years;

25.4. the foreign flight crew member has a certificate attesting that the English language proficiency of the applicant conforms to at least the operational level (Level 4) in accordance with the requirements of point FCL.055 of Annex I to Regulation No 1178/2011;

25.5. the foreign flight crew member has an opinion issued by a training organisation which has been certified in conformity with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for the certification of civil aviation flight crew member training providers that his or her level of theoretical knowledge and capacity to conduct practical flights conforms to the requirements for obtaining the leisure pilot licence in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the procedures for issuing a civil aviation flight crew licence;

25.6. the foreign flight crew member has passed the following theoretical examinations of the Civil Aviation Agency: laws and regulations governing aviation and flight performance and planning;

25.7. the foreign flight crew member has passed a skill test for the relevant class or type of aircraft.

26. If the foreign flight crew member does not have the document referred to in Sub-paragraphs 24.4 and 25.4 of this Regulation, the relevant certificate of licence validation or leisure pilot licence shall be issued with a limitation that it is permitted to conduct flights only in an airspace where mandatory maintaining of radio communication is not specified.

27. The requirement referred to in Sub-paragraph 25.5 of this Regulation shall not apply to a foreign flight crew member who has at least 200 hours of flight experience in the status of the PIC with the relevant class or type of aircraft.

28. The requirements of this Chapter shall not apply to the foreign flight crew licences for the recognition of which an international agreement binding on the Republic of Latvia has been entered into. In such a case, the requirements of the international agreement shall apply.

**IV. Closing Provisions**

29. A certificate of licence validation with which the foreign flight crew licence issued by the time of coming into force of this Regulation has been recognised shall remain in effect until the end of the validity period thereof.

30. Cabinet Regulation No. 1111 of 15 October 2013, Regulations Regarding Recognition of the Foreign State Civil Aviation Aircrew Certificates (*Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 2013, No. 203), is repealed.

Prime Minister A. K. Kariņš

Minister for Transport J. Vitenbergs