

Miscellaneous

No: 1649

[UK Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1139](#)

Publication date: 20 February 2026

General Exemption E6550

On-the-Job Training Instructor (OJTI) and Assessor Endorsement privileges to be exercised by ATCOs with at least two years' experience in a different surveillance rating to the rating of the person under instruction or assessment

Background

- 1) Certain Air Traffic Service (ATS) units in the UK provide a surveillance-based air traffic control (ATC) service to air traffic. This surveillance-based ATC service utilises Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) with different ATS surveillance ratings, being Approach Control Surveillance (APS) or Area Control Surveillance (ACS) ratings, but who possess the same unit endorsement.
- 2) This exemption is issued to meet urgent operational needs to ensure uninterrupted and safe provision of ATC services in the face of operational resource constraints. It allows for those ATCOs, who possess one type of surveillance rating, to exercise On-the-job training instructor (OJTI) and Assessor endorsement privileges for the instruction and assessment of controllers possessing the different surveillance rating, but towards the issue, revalidation or renewal of the same unit endorsement that the ATCO holds.

Exemption

- 3) The Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), pursuant to Article 71(1) of UK Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, hereby exempts, subject to the conditions in paragraph 4, those ATCOs who hold a unit endorsement with either an APS or ACS rating to provide the same surveillance service in a specified portion of airspace, from:
 - a) the requirement of ATCO.C.010(b)(1) of Annex 1 to UK Regulation (EU) 2015/340 in order for them to exercise the privileges of the OJTI endorsement where they do not possess the same surveillance rating as the person under instruction, but do possess the alternate surveillance rating utilised for the same unit endorsement; and
 - b) the requirement of ATCO.C.045(c)(1) of Annex 1 to UK Regulation (EU) 2015/340 in order to conduct assessments and exercise the privileges of the assessor endorsement where they do not possess the same surveillance rating as the person they will assess, but do possess the alternate surveillance rating utilised for the same unit endorsement.

Conditions

- 4) This exemption is granted subject to the following conditions:
- a) The ATS unit must notify the CAA Principal Inspector ATS/ATM of the ATCO relying on the exemption in advance of the instruction or assessment being carried out.
 - b) It is only applicable at ATS units utilising APS and ACS ratings in the same portion of airspace.
 - c) The ATCO referred to in paragraph 4(a) must have exercised for at least two years the privilege of the surveillance rating they hold.
 - d) The ATCO referred to in paragraph 4(a) must have exercised for an immediately preceding period:
 - i) of at least six months the privilege of the unit endorsement in which instruction will be given; or
 - ii) of at least one year the privilege of the unit endorsement in which assessments will be conducted.
 - e) The ATCO referred to in paragraph 4(a) must satisfy all other requirements of ATCO.C.010 and ATCO.C.045 of Annex 1 to UK Regulation (EU) 2015/340 for OJTI and Assessor privileges, including the requirement to hold a valid UK Class 3 medical certificate when exercising the privileges.

Date in Force

- 5) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 28 February 2031, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

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for the Civil Aviation Authority

19 February 2026

Explanatory Note:

This exemption is issued to ensure uninterrupted and safe provision of ATC service in the face of operational resource constraints. It allows for those controllers who possess one ATS surveillance rating, to exercise OJTI and Assessor endorsement privileges for the instruction and assessment of controllers possessing the different ATS surveillance rating, but towards the issue, revalidation or renewal of the same unit endorsement. This exemption is put into place whilst the CAA explores appropriate actions to resolve this matter on a permanent basis. The effect of the exemption is that:

- a) At ATC units where an APS or ACS service is provided by controllers holding the same unit endorsement, but such controllers hold a different surveillance rating and/or rating endorsement to the rating of the person they are instructing or assessing:
 - i) an OJTI may use the privileges of the associated unit endorsement, in substitution of the surveillance rating and/or rating endorsement required in ATCO.C.010(b)(1) in order to provide the training requirements associated with the control position;
 - ii) an assessor may use the privileges of the associated unit endorsement, in substitution of the surveillance rating and/or rating endorsement required in ATCO.C.045(c)(1) in order to provide the assessment requirements associated with the control position.
- b) The exemption is only applicable to ATC units with APS and ACS as notified to the CAA Principal Inspector ATS/ATM who have Instructors that do not possess the surveillance rating they will instruct in, but have exercised for at least two years the privilege of the other surveillance rating they hold and have exercised for an immediately preceding period of at least six months the privilege of the valid unit endorsement in which instruction will be given.
- c) The exemption is only applicable to ATC units with APS and ACS as notified to the CAA Principal Inspector ATS/ATM who have Assessors that do not possess the surveillance rating they will assess in, but have exercised for at least two years the privilege of the other surveillance rating they hold and have exercised for an immediately preceding period of at least one year the privilege of the valid unit endorsement in which assessments will be conducted.