



**Miscellaneous**

**No:** 1656

**UK Regulation (EU) No. 965/2012**

**Publication date:** 02 April 2026

**General Approval**

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## **General Approval for Wet Lease-in Agreements in Exceptional Circumstances**

### **Background**

- 1) This general approval is an alleviation to enable rapid wet lease-in arrangements for UK Air Carriers in urgent need as a result of exceptional circumstances.
- 2) The purpose of this general approval is to enable United Kingdom (UK) Air Carriers to enter into wet lease agreements with a Community Air Carrier when the aircraft is registered in a European Economic Area (EEA) Member State or Switzerland.
- 3) This general approval may only be used in urgent need as a result of exceptional circumstances and when there are no UK-registered aircraft available to wet lease-in from a UK Air Carrier.
- 4) In order to benefit from the alleviation herein, details of the agreements, notification period and documentation required to be presented to the UK Civil Aviation Authority (the CAA), prior to commencement of these agreements, are outlined within this general approval.
- 5) This general approval may only be used in urgent need as a result of exceptional circumstances and for a maximum of three 24-hour periods, cumulative, in any rolling 12-month period by a UK lessee. It must not be used as an alternative to appropriate route capacity planning.

### **Interpretation**

- 6) For the purposes of this approval:
  - a) "UK Air Carrier" means an Air Carrier holding an air operator certificate (AOC) and an operating licence (OL) granted by the UK CAA;
  - b) "Community Air Carrier" means an operator from an EEA Member State or Switzerland, who holds an air operator certificate (AOC) and an operating licence (OL) granted by the relevant competent authority of the operator;
  - c) "wet lease agreement" has the same meaning as in UK Reg (EU) No. 965/2012;
  - d) "lessor" means the party from which the aircraft is leased<sup>1</sup>; and
  - e) "lessee" means the party to which the aircraft is leased.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ICAO Doc 10059 Manual on the implementation of Article 83 bis of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2017

## General Approval

- 7) The CAA hereby approves, in accordance with ARO.OPS.110(a)(2) of UK Reg (EU) No. 965/2012, any wet lease agreement of an aircraft registered in the EEA or in Switzerland by a UK Air Carrier from a Community Air Carrier where such agreement is made urgent and necessary by exceptional circumstances.
- 8) This general approval is subject to the following conditions:
- a) in any period of 12 consecutive months, the cumulative operation of aircraft pursuant to this general approval shall not be greater than three 24-hour periods in total;
  - b) the lease is for the purposes of commercial air transport;
  - c) there is a valid, written lease agreement in place between Air Carriers (the lessor and the lessee) prior to the commencement of the lease;
  - d) the UK Air Carrier (lessee) complies with the applicable requirements of ORO.AOC.110 of UK Reg (EU) No. 965/2012;
  - e) the UK Air Carrier (lessee) must ensure that the Community Air Carrier from which it is wet leasing-in the aircraft has been granted a permission to operate in the UK, as required by Article 250 of the Air Navigation Order 2016;
  - f) the UK Air Carrier (lessee) must ensure that the Community Air Carrier from which it is wet leasing-in the aircraft has been granted a Third Country Operator authorisation, as required by Article 3 of UK Reg (EU) No. 452/2014;
  - g) if the Community Air Carrier (lessor) and/or the aircraft that are the subject of the lease do not meet the requirements of UK Reg (EU) 2018/1139 and its Implementing Rules, the UK Air Carrier (lessee) shall satisfy itself, and be able to demonstrate to the UK CAA, that the lessor and those aircraft meet an equivalent level of safety;
  - h) the UK Air Carrier (lessee) shall comply with Annex A of this general approval;
  - i) the UK Air Carrier (lessee) shall notify the CAA, at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the wet lease-in of the specified aircraft, using the CAA's wet leasing online form ([Notification of a Wet Lease-In from a UK or Member State Operator](#)). The notification must include all of the information required in accordance with Annex A of this general approval; and
  - j) in very exceptional circumstances and subject to prior approval, the limit of three 24-hour periods may be reset on a case-by-case basis, by application to the UK Air Carrier's CAA Flight Operations Inspector (FOI) or a CAA Flight Operations Manager (FOM), with information to [Aircraft.Lesing@caa.co.uk](mailto:Aircraft.Lesing@caa.co.uk).
- 9) This approval replaces the approval published in the Official Record Series 4 No. **1625**.

## Date in Force

- 10) This approval has effect from **04 April 2026** until **03 April 2027**, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

Malcolm Sutherland

for the Civil Aviation Authority

02 April 2026

## **ANNEX A – Notification Requirements and Acceptable Means of Compliance**

### **1) Required Notifications to the CAA for Use of this Approval**

- a) The UK Air Carrier (lessee) shall notify their CAA assigned FOI of all leases entered into pursuant to this approval, prior to the commencement of the lease.
- b) Prior to the commencement of the lease, all lease agreements entered into pursuant to this general approval shall be notified to the CAA by e-mail to [Aircraft.Leasing@caa.co.uk](mailto:Aircraft.Leasing@caa.co.uk). Details to be included in the notification are as follows:
  - i) the circumstances which led to the lease;
  - ii) the routes to be flown; and
  - iii) the name and full contact details of the operator of the leased aircraft.

### **2) Additional Information Required (including AMC1 ORO.AOC.110)**

The UK Air Carriers (lessees) intending to wet lease-in an aircraft shall provide the CAA with the following information as soon as available but no later than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the wet lease-in:

- a) the aircraft type, registration markings and serial number;
- b) the name and address of the registered owner;
- c) a copy of the lessor's AOC, and the Operations Specifications;
- d) a valid copy of the lessor's Certificate of Airworthiness (CofA) and Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC);
- e) a copy of the lease agreement, excluding the financial arrangements;
- f) a statement signed by the UK Air Carrier (lessee) that the parties to the lease agreement fully understand their respective responsibilities under the applicable requirements; and
- g) the duration of the lease, not to exceed three 24-hour periods cumulative in any 12-month rolling period.

### **3) Equivalent Standards (AMC1 ORO.AOC.110(c))**

If the UK Air Carrier (lessee) is not intending to apply UK safety requirements for air operations and continuing airworthiness, it should ensure that the standards complied with are equivalent, in accordance with AMC1 ORO.AOC.110(c).

### **4) Additional Notes**

Please be aware of the following:

- Article 250, Air Navigation Order 2016, applicable to foreign registered aircraft with regard to Restriction on carriage, where valuable consideration is given or promised, in aircraft registered elsewhere than in the United Kingdom.
- Article 3 UK Regulation (EU) No. 452/2014 regarding third country operators engaging in commercial air transport operations within, into or out of UK territory.
- Article 13 UK Regulation (EC) No. 1008/2008 regarding Leasing.