



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
Flight Safety Division
Department of Civil Aviation
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NOTICE TO 3B AIR OPERATORS

Subject: UNAUTHORISED PASSENGERS IN THE COCKPIT DURING FLIGHT	Number	No.: 2026-06
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Referenced publication(s):

MCAR Part ORO. SEC.100 - Flight crew compartment security

Applicability

3B registered Aircraft operating in Commercial Air Transport (CAT) category with operators of large aeroplanes equipped with a secure flight crew compartment door.

Description

The Department of Civil Aviation is issuing this notice regarding safety procedures in the flight crew compartment during flights.

Following post-9/11 security requirement, only authorised flight crew and specifically approved aviation personnel — such as deadheading pilots, DCA inspectors on duty, or certified mechanics — are allowed in the cockpit during flight.

General passengers are strictly prohibited from entering or visiting the flight deck while the aircraft is airborne.

Authorised Personnel

Only specific individuals with official clearance are permitted inside the cockpit during an active flight. These individuals generally include:

- **The Operating Flight Crew:** The Captain, First Officer, and any relief pilots required for long-haul flights.
- **Other Airline Flight Crew:** Off-duty pilots or flight attendants employed by the airline (sometimes occupying the jump seat).
- **DCA Inspectors:** Authorised DCA safety and regulatory inspectors on duty (e.g., performing in-flight audits).
- **Airline Mechanics/Engineers:** Certified maintenance personnel required to monitor specific in-flight aircraft systems.
- **Law Enforcement:** Armed Police officer or designated State law enforcement officers

Rules for Passengers

- **In-Flight:** Passengers are strictly forbidden from entering the cockpit. Since 2001, commercial cockpit doors are reinforced, locked, and continuously monitored from the inside.
- **On the Ground:** Visiting the flight deck as a passenger is only possible when the aircraft is parked at the gate. This is strictly at the Captain's discretion and usually happens during boarding or after the plane has landed.

Recommendation(s)

The Department of Civil Aviation recommends that 3B Air Operators shall:

- (1) Inform flight crews of the implementation of this notice.
- (2) Update or amend, where necessary, the Operations Manual published by the airline.
- (3) Ensure that the requirements of this notice are implemented during all phases of flight.
- (4) Unauthorised access to or unauthorised presence in an aircraft cockpit is treated as a critical security breach. Enforcement ranges from civil fines and pilot suspension to criminal prosecution. These severe penalties are enforced by aviation regulatory bodies globally to ensure flight safety.



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