

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

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AIC
04/14
01 August 2014

**Operation of Private /General Aviation Flights to Mauritius – Control of Firearms
and Restricted Items**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The AIC is being issued in the exercise of the powers conferred under the Regulation 135 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR 2007) for the guidance of Operators and Pilots-in-Command of Private and General Aviation aircraft wishing to operate flights to the Republic of Mauritius regarding the carriage of firearms and restricted items.

2. Permission Required

- 2.1 Pilots are reminded that private non-scheduled flights to the Republic of Mauritius are strictly subject to prior permission from the Director of Civil aviation (DCA). Pilots must request such permission and await receipt of a proper authorization from DCA before taking off for the Republic of Mauritius. The Flight Clearance Number issued by DCA must be included in field 18 of the Flight Plan submitted for the flight.
- 2.2 The Mauritius AIP at page GEN 1.2-2/3, Para 3.1.3 lists the information to be forwarded by the Operator/Pilot when submitting a request for permission to operate a Private/General Aviation flight to the Republic of Mauritius.
- 2.3 It is brought to the attention of all concerned that this list has been recently amended to include a statement from the Operator/Pilot as to whether or not firearms would be carried on board. In case of the affirmative a detailed list of such arms and ammunitions shall be provided.

3. Control of Firearms and Restricted Items in Mauritius

3.1 Local laws /regulations regarding carriage of firearms and restricted items:

- 3.1.1 It is strictly forbidden for foreign citizens to bring to the Republic of Mauritius and to use on Mauritian territory any kinds, types or models of firearms and restricted items for the purpose of ensuring personal security, protecting the life and health of other persons, their property, escorting cargo or for any other purposes.

- 3.1.1.1 For details on the list of restricted, prohibited and controlled items refer to the following links:

- <http://mra.gov.mu>
- <http://mra.mu/index.php/importexport-a-others/import/prohited-goods>
- <http://mra.mu/index.php/importexport-a-others/import/controlled-goods>

- 3.1.1.2 A leaflet on Guidelines on Import and Export by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Protection (Commerce Division) can be accessed on the following link:
- <http://commerce.gov.mu/English/Documents/news/leaflet1.pdf>
- 3.1.2 Control of firearms on aircraft entering the Republic of Mauritius is exercised by Customs and the Police. Pilots-in-Command of foreign aircraft are required by customs to make a declaration about any firearms that are carried on board their aircraft.
- 3.1.3 Any firearms carried on board an arriving aircraft and properly declared to the Mauritian Authorities will be taken over by Customs and handed over to Police for custody while the aircraft is on ground in Mauritius.
- 3.1.4 In case any undeclared firearms and/or ammunitions are detected on arrival or departure, such arms and ammunitions shall be seized by Customs/Police and a Police investigation will be initiated.
- 3.2 Responsibility of the Operator/Pilot-in-Command regarding carriage of Arms and Ammunitions
- 3.2.1 When applying for permission to operate a flight to the Republic of Mauritius, Aircraft Operators/Pilots are now required to make a statement as to whether or not any firearms and ammunitions shall be carried on board.
- 3.2.2 It shall therefore be the responsibility of the Operator/Pilot-in-Command to advise his passengers of the above restrictions on firearms and obtain such information as to enable him to make a truthful statement as to whether or not any arms would be carried on board.
- 3.2.3 In case of an arriving Private/General Aviation aircraft that has notified the presence of firearms/ammunitions on board, the Pilot-in-Command accompanied by the passenger(s) shall on arrival proceed to the Customs Examining Desk for necessary formalities.
- 4. Security and Border Control Checks**
- 4.1 Private/General Aviation flights shall be subject to security and border control checks as follows:
1. Arrival
After landing the pilot, crew and all passengers shall be transported/led by the handling agent/airport operator (AML) staff for immigration, health, customs, and any border security control checks deemed necessary.
 2. Departure
Before being transported to the aircraft, the pilot, crew and passenger(s) shall pass through the normal immigration and security channels.

- 4.2 Aircraft Operators / Pilots may further wish to bring to the attention of their passengers that in the Republic of Mauritius:
1. Holding a Diplomatic Passport does not exempt the passport holder or his/her luggage from the normal security screening process unless an official request has been made through diplomatic channel and a specific exemption has been granted by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.
 2. Specific exemptions that usually apply to visiting Royalty and Head of States travelling on official business do not apply when such persons are travelling as private individual, unless following an official request made through diplomatic channel the Government of Mauritius agrees to any of the special arrangements requested.
- 4.3 Flights carrying visiting Royalty, Head of States or diplomatic passport holders on official duty are considered as State flights. As such requests for permission to operate these flights should be made through diplomatic channels and should include specific requests for any exemption /special treatment being sought.
- 4.4 In line with the foregoing, all visiting Royalty, Head of States or diplomatic passport holders on board private flights that are cleared by the Director of Civil Aviation through the normal process for private flights, shall be presumed to be travelling on private business and shall be subject to normal security screening and border control checks.

5. Effective Date

- 5.1 This AIC will become effective on 01 August 2014.

This AIC is issued for guidance and necessary action

A. MOSAHEB

For Director of Civil Aviation