

Date: 15 Apr 2024

MAA/RI/2024/03 – Transitional Arrangements for the MAA Contractor Flying Approved Organization Scheme Form 2

Issue

Following transition to the 1160 series Regulatory Articles (RA) and associated Regulations^{1,2}, and consolidation of the three principal RAs³ underpinning the Contractor Flying Approved Organization Scheme (CFAOS) into a single RA⁴, the MAA CFAOS Form 2⁵ has been reviewed to ensure it fully reflects the requirements of these RAs. This review has resulted in a revised CFAOS Form 2. All Defence Contractor Flying Organizations (DCFO) operating under the CFAOS are required to submit a revised CFAOS Form 2, signed by their Sponsor(s)⁶; arrangements to allow transition to the revised CFAOS Form 2 will be required.

Scope

This RI relates to the CFAOS Form 2 for DCFOs operating under the CFAOS.

Aim

This RI details the transitional arrangements for the MAA CFAOS Form 2 and will ensure that Accountable Managers (Military Flying) and their Sponsors are aware of the requirements regarding transition.

Implementation

This RI is effective immediately.

Background / Introduction

The 1160 series RAs and associated Regulations^{1,2}, released in November 2020, which replaced the 1120 series RAs, require the appointment of a Sponsor for both Civilian-Owned and Civilian Operated Air Systems, where previously the 1120⁷ series of RAs only required a Sponsor for Civilian-Owned Air Systems. Routine RA post-implementation review has identified that the extant CFAOS Form 2 does not fully articulate and confirm all the requirements placed upon the Sponsor through the 1160 series RAs and associated Regulations^{1,2}, particularly for Civilian Operated Air Systems. The post-implementation review also identified that consolidation of the three principal RAs underpinning the CFAOS into a single RA was appropriate⁸; this consolidation identified further deficiencies⁹ in the CFAOS Form 2.

Therefore, a revised CFAOS Form 2 has been published (available on the MAA gov.uk website). All DCFOs operating under the CFAOS will be required to submit a revised CFAOS Form 2.

A revised CFAOS Approval Schedule template will support the revised CFAOS Form 2.

Transitional Arrangements

The MAA recognizes that time is required to implement the new arrangements. To support this a transitional period of 12 months from the date of publication of this RI until 15 April 2025 will be in place.

¹ Refer to RA 1019 – Sponsor of Military Registered Civilian-Owned and Civilian Operated Air Systems - Air Safety Responsibilities.

² Refer to RA 1305 – Military Permit to Fly (In-Service), (Special Case Flying) and (Single Task).

³ RA 1024, RA 1028 and RA 2501.

⁴ Refer to RA 1028 – Contractor Flying Approved Organization Scheme.

⁵ Hereafter referred to in this RI as the CFAOS Form 2.

⁶ Note that DCFOs with more than one Sponsor will be required to submit a CFAOS Form 2 per Sponsor.

⁷ The 1160 series RAs and associated Regulations replaced the 1120 series RAs.

⁸ RA 1028 being the consolidated RA, published 15 April 2024, with RA 1024 and RA 2501 being withdrawn.

⁹ Such as: clarity of Sponsor assigned Defence Air Environment (DAE) Operating Categories; inappropriate Test and Evaluation (T&E) Support Activity definitions; and inappropriate non-T&E Activity definitions.

During this period, DCFOs may continue to operate under their extant CFAOS Form 2 on the condition that no significant uplifts^{4,10} or significant changes / variations to their CFAOS Approval occur during this period. Any significant uplifts / changes / variations will need to utilize the revised CFAOS Form 2 and will be formally applied for in accordance with RA 1028⁴ (and thus supported by further documentation including an updated Contractor Flying Organization Exposition (CFOE)). Non-significant CFOE changes may be submitted under the extant CFAOS Form 2 during the transition period.

During transition, any CFAOS Form 2 submissions utilizing the revised CFAOS Form 2 will be endorsed via an accordingly revised CFAOS Approval Schedule template. Any submitted under the extant CFAOS Form 2 will be endorsed via the extant CFAOS Approval Schedule template.

DCFOs who wish to transition prior to 15 April 2025 may do so via submission of a revised CFAOS Form 2 supported by appropriate documentation (ie in accordance with RA 1028⁴, principally supported by an updated CFOE).

Queries

Any observations or requests for further guidance on the content of this RI should be submitted by email to DSA-MAA-MRPEnquiries@mod.gov.uk.

MAA Head Operating Assurance

¹⁰ Such as: addition of Air System type / change of Mark, change in DAE operating Category / Categories, or the addition of further aviation activities.