

23 aprile 2020

(English text at the bottom)

FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION SAFETY ASPECTS SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Gentili Colleghi,

a causa della pandemia di Covid-19 le operazioni dei voli passeggeri sono state tagliate, le flotte di aeromobili sono state messe a terra e migliaia di dipendenti sono stati posti in cassa integrazione o licenziati.

Allo stesso tempo, tuttavia, il sistema aereo globale continua a funzionare. Le torri ed i centri di controllo del traffico in rotta continuano a guidare gli aeromobili verso le loro destinazioni; gli aeroporti sono aperti e operativi, sebbene a capacità molto ridotta e piloti ed assistenti di volo continuano a far funzionare gli aerei che gli ingegneri e i tecnici addetti alla manutenzione garantiscono che siano in efficienza.

Nel mezzo di questa crisi, la sicurezza deve ancora prevalere. È essenziale mantenere elevati standard di sicurezza, seppur in un contesto di operazioni ridotte e che, si spera prima o poi, torneranno a livelli di normalità.

In questo contesto Flight Safety Foundation ha sviluppato il documento allegato contenente materiale supplementare per i professionisti della sicurezza e dell'aviazione nelle operazioni di volo, per i controllori del traffico aereo, per gli operatori aeroportuali, per gli addetti alle operazioni di terra e manutenzione, nonché per regolatori e produttori, per garantire un sicuro, sostenibile e armonizzato ritorno del trasporto aereo globale.

Buona lettura

ANPAC – Dipartimento Tecnico
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FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION SAFETY ASPECTS SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Dear Colleagues,
due to the Covid-19 pandemic passenger operations have been slashed, fleets of aircraft have been ground, and thousands of employees have been furloughed.

But, at the same time, the global aviation system is still functioning. Air traffic control towers and en route centers continue to guide aircraft to their destinations; airports are open and operating, albeit at much reduced capacity and pilots and flight attendants continue to operate airplanes that maintenance engineers are ensure are airworthy.

In the midst of crisis, safety must still prevail. It is essential to maintain high safety performance in continuing operations, in reduced operations and, hopefully sooner rather than later, in increasing operations as carriers begin bringing aircraft and service back online.

In such a contest Flight Safety Foundation developed the following document as supplemental material for safety and aviation professionals in flight operations, air traffic services, airports, ground operations and maintenance, as well as for regulators and manufacturers as they navigate the current environment and, eventually, a safe, harmonized and sustainable return to global air transportation.

Enjoy the reading.

ANPAC – Dipartimento Tecnico
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Pandemic

NON-MEDICAL OPERATIONAL SAFETY ASPECTS

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

FOREWORD

As global society struggles with the tragic and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we in aviation are seeing a previously unimaginable impact on our industry. The International Air Transport Association's latest projection shows that 2020 passenger revenues could fall \$252 billion, or 44 percent from last year's level, assuming severe travel restrictions remain in place for up to three months and are followed by a gradual economic recovery later this year.

As has been well documented, passenger operations have been slashed, fleets of aircraft have been ground, and thousands of employees have been furloughed. But, at the same time, the global aviation system is still functioning. Air traffic control towers and en route centers continue to guide aircraft to their destinations; airports are open and operating, albeit at much reduced capacity; and pilots and flight attendants continue to operate airplanes that maintenance engineers are ensure are airworthy.

In the midst of crisis, safety must still prevail. It is essential to maintain high safety performance in continuing operations, in reduced operations and, hopefully sooner rather than later, in increasing operations as carriers begin bringing aircraft and service back online.

Flight Safety Foundation developed this document as supplemental material for safety and aviation professionals in flight operations, air traffic services, airports, ground operations and maintenance, as well as for regulators and manufacturers as they navigate the current environment and, eventually, a safe, harmonized and sustainable return to global air transportation. What follows are condensed safety-related considerations that serve as a roadmap for professionals in different segments of the aviation ecosystem and can inform and guide decisions under difficult circumstances. In developing this document, the Foundation has tapped into the considerable expertise of our advisory committees and other experts, many of whom offered input based on what they are seeing right now on a day-to-day basis and what they believe is necessary to maintain safe operations during this crisis.

This document should be viewed as a "work in progress," as the Foundation continues to enhance and expand it, moving forward. We will solicit inputs from the safety and operations communities to inform changes and future versions. In addition, the Foundation has several related projects under way, including work to collect and organize the various detailed recommendations and specific COVID-19 procedural steps that are being implemented around the world; a webinar series, Managing the COVID-19 Crisis; and the revamping of our previously scheduled conference events into virtual events focused on pandemic-related issues. More details are available on our website.

Finally, we would like to thank Foundation advisory committee leaders for their initiative and long hours of hard work to produce this document.

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BACKGROUND

The coronavirus pandemic is having a devastating effect on aviation and represents the biggest strategic shock to the global aviation system since international air travel began. Whereas we need to acknowledge that the crisis is first and foremost a human tragedy, and everyone's first priority is to ensure their own family's safety, we also need to understand that our world as we know it will not be the same even after the virus is contained.

Flight Safety Foundation's mission is to connect, influence and lead global aviation safety. Never has there been such a critical time to bring together the world's aviation community for the protection of our people and our operations. Through its independence, impartiality and international community, the Foundation is in a unique position to assist with safe navigation through these exceptional times. Together we must establish a broad industry set of guidelines of "good things to do" in an increasingly fragmented and complex situation, recognizing that financial pressures will be acute and that there are no limits to the benefits of sharing information and learning.

Some airlines are shutting down their operations. Others continue to run on reduced schedules. Cargo operations, air traffic control, airport and ground services now become critical elements in society's efforts to overcome the crisis. Some routes and services are already reopening.

All these changes are putting a massive strain on the system and generating clear business, operations and safety risks. Industry leaders and managers will need to take care that the understandable focus on financial viability in the coming months does not include diversion of resources from safety activities.

The advice in this and subordinate documents has been developed through collaboration across the Foundation community. Our combined efforts represent the voice of safety leaders from across the world, from every aviation sector, from operations to infrastructure, regulators to academia. This guidance represents a road map of sensible, practical actions that can supplement company procedures and lead to a safe, harmonized and sustainable return to global air transportation. We deliberately do not discuss specific coronavirus advice, which is properly the preserve of national governments. Specific aviation advice on detailed medical procedures associated with personnel protection, equipment cleaning, protective clothing and individual and group behavior is well described elsewhere.

SPECIAL NOTE: Safety Punch lists of all consideration lists are available through a link in the heading for each document section. The punch lists can be used as a tool to track implementation.

SAFETY ASPECTS OF CONTINUED OPERATIONS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider all operations as non-normal and therefore a threat to safety
- Ensure cost pressures do not unduly reduce acceptable safety levels
- Consider possible culture change as the company or organization goes into financial survival thinking
- Ensure sufficient staff available commensurate with the actual level of operations
- Ensure continued use of your safety management system (SMS) to its full potential
 - Be aware that risk levels of each flight will change from locality to locality and with each type of operation due to the state of the crisis progression
 - Consider the threat of increased risk acceptance (get the job done, save the airline, less loss of jobs)
 - Consider the risk of missed or reduced safety or quality assurance (audits, etc)
 - Share risk assessments and experiences with other operators
- Ensure effective internal and external communication
- Ensure continued facility access for staff (i.e., expiry of access badges, pass codes etc.)
- Consider staff involvement in process improvements
- Consider training
 - Use any down time for training and safety education
 - Use all available means for training delivery (video, video conference, etc)
 - Consider training intervals depending on staff experience
- Ensure contingency plans are available in case of significant staff shortages
- Consider team situations
 - Modify rostering to meet new demands
 - Consider creating non-overlapping teams (social distancing)
- Consider IT systems
 - Ensure critical software and hardware updates are made
 - Have a back-up for when IT systems fail
 - Avoid non-critical software and hardware updates
- Consider level of staff turnover

HUMAN FACTORS

- Consider reduced performance of staff and increased risk in the system due to
 - Fear
 - Uncertainty about the situation and future

- Increased stress
- Increased pressures
- Distraction
- Complacency
- Physiological reasons
- Psychological reasons
- Consider staff support
 - Activate staff or peer support programs
 - Activate in-house human factors managers (if available)
 - Offer safety department for support in safety matters
 - Offer support by human resource department
 - Consider creating a company community for mutual support
 - Consider extending staff support to furloughed or redundant staff
- Consider personal relationships between staff retained and those furloughed or made redundant
- Ensure awareness of
 - The mental health state of those people continuing to work
 - The potential for special cases amongst the work force
 - Reduced quality of crew rest
 - Potential reduction in general fitness levels leading to reduced performance
 - The long term physiological and psychological consequences of the crisis
 - The possibility that staff fearing for their jobs might not behave rationally (decreased reporting, etc)
 - Ensure just culture policy is known and understood
- Ensure staff stay engaged in “company thinking”

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

People

- Consider skills, knowledge and qualification distribution across the route network
- Consider management pressures on minimum fuel etc.
- Consider crew currency and knowledge of available airfields
- Consider physiological requirements for crews at airports and on layovers (hotels, food, etc)
- Consider fatigue risk boundaries
- Consider increased flight data monitoring to identify precursors

- Consider effects of increased pressure on the remaining crews to service the program as more crews isolate
- Ensure availability of adequately trained check flight crews

Process

Pre-flight

- Consider increased attention to the accuracy and currency of NOTAMS
- Consider evaluation of possible destinations and proactively risk assess and organize: Airport analysis and risk assessment
- Consider creating semi-permanent crew pairings
- Consider the use of an out-and-back policy for flights to avoid stays at outstations where practicable
- Consider relaxing turn-around times
- Confirm timely availability of required regulatory approvals
- Consider applying for waivers if necessary
- Consider SOPs for airlines that do not routinely operate cargo only
- Consider processes for roundtrip flights, e.g. rest possibilities, increased crew, food, water and toilet capability, etc
- Consider a process for carriage of engineers
- Consider mutual support to facilitate movement of cargo aircrews in times where passenger flight schedules are reduced
- Consider mitigations for insufficient flight training device capacity to maintain crew currency
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider weight and balance issues due to unusual load factors
 - Cabin safety for passenger main decks
 - Consider emergency equipment for carrying cargo in passenger cabins
 - Consider Dangerous Goods Regulations and policy
- Ensure availability of maintenance at outstations
- Consider spare aircraft planning/availability for aircraft on ground at outstation

Flight

- Consider the available air traffic service level
- Consider the availability of en-route and destination diversions
- Consider risk analysis and processes for non-normal/non-routine operations, e.g. mixed passenger/cargo
- Consider limiting access to aircraft by ground staff for non-essential activities
- Consider availability of transport and hotels

- Consider raising crew awareness of non-normal last-minute changes to loads, e.g. no shows, rebookings from other airlines
- Ensure limited crew exposure during turn around; consider limiting crew walk-arounds

Technical

- Ensure that all required ground services are available
- Ensure that the fuel service meets regulatory standards
- Ensure that the de-icing service meets regulatory standards

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider reduced operating hours rather than reduced staffing levels if controller availability is low
- Consider using different sets of equipment for each shift
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider confinement of entire shifts (or group of personnel), if necessary, to ensure the continuation of service and to prevent the spread of infection
 - Organisation: Ensure sufficient food and drinks supplies
 - Organisation: Provide accommodation, beddings, cots
 - Individuals: Change of clothes, personal hygiene items

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS
- Consider suspending all routine group training activities
- Consider alternative means of training, e.g. remote access
- Ensure safety assessments of any traffic pattern changes are performed
- Consider establishing crisis information flow channels with adjacent ATC units, airports in your airspace and emergency services
- Consider sectorisation plans
- Consider existing procedures and 'Letters of Agreement'
- Consider development of plans in case adjacent ATC units close down

Technical

- Ensure adequate availability of qualified manpower for technical resilience
- Consider only essential maintenance activities should be carried out
- Ensure availability and maintenance of a spare ops room and remote/mobile towers

AIRPORTS

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider risk of airside staff complacency due to reduced ramp activity levels

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS
- Ensure maintenance of active wildlife control measures
- Consider allowing more crew rations food/water through security screening
- Ensure sufficient provision of ground handling services such as toilet cleaning and galley replenishment
- Ensure that the airfield has a master parking plan and that standard and crisis level capacity are known

Technical

- Consider requirement to keep aerodrome facilities and services operational and certified
- Ensure that sufficient engine running capability exists

MRO / MAINTENANCE

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness

Process

- Consider possible reduced availability of spare parts
- Consider the reliability of 'aircraft on ground' service levels
- Consider potential for extended MEL/DDL ops

Technical

- Ensure that all "lifed" or life-limited items are in date

GROUND OPERATIONS

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness

- Consider risk of airside staff complacency due to reduced ramp activity levels

Process

- Consider possible reduction in service levels such as load sheet preparation

Technical

- Consider possible reduction in service levels such as de-icing, snow clearing,

MANUFACTURERS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff in customer support and safety departments commensurate with the actual level of operations

Process

- Consider the reliability and continued capability of 'aircraft on ground' service levels
- Ensure assistance to airlines in their maintenance of continued airworthiness tasks

Technical

- Ensure availability of advice on aircraft storage, de-storage, cabin air systems and passenger safety

REGULATORS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff available to handle system demands
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider reduced staffing levels when considering the rigour of audit response times, etc (i.e., do not unnecessarily increase pressure on organisations)

Process

- Ensure rapid alignment at the political level so that operational clearances can be set in place rapidly, (i.e. European Commission approval for EASA to act on behalf of cargo teams)
- Consider short-term rule changes for protection of critical teams (like cargo crews)
- Consider receiving requests for waivers
- Consider crisis planning for the different stakeholders and involvement of the safety departments

- Consider reminding all stakeholders to involve their safety managers in the crisis planning and discussions
- Consider flight time limit alleviations
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider a global waiver on current security procedures for cabin and flight crews for hand sanitizer or other essential safety material
- Consider extending training intervals
- Consider allowing more crew rations food/water through security screening
- Consider provisions to ground handlers on the minimum level of services to be provided during a crisis situation

SAFETY ASPECTS OF REDUCTION/CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider all operations as non-normal and therefore a threat to safety
- Consider a progressive and coordinated reduction/cessation of operations
- Ensure cost pressures do not unduly reduce acceptable safety levels
- Consider possible culture change as the company or organization goes into financial survival thinking
- Ensure sufficient staff available commensurate with the actual level of operations
- Ensure continued use of your safety management system (SMS) to its full potential
 - Be aware that risk levels of each flight will change from locality to locality and with each type of operation due to the state of the crisis progression
 - Consider the threat of increased risk acceptance (get the job done, save the airline, less loss of jobs)
 - Consider the risk of missed or reduced safety or quality assurance (audits, etc)
 - Share risk assessments and experiences with other operators
- Ensure effective internal and external communication
- Ensure continued facility access for staff (i.e., expiry of access badges, pass codes etc.)
- Consider staff involvement in process improvements
- Consider training
 - Use any down time for training and safety education
 - Use all available means to deliver training (video, video conferencing, etc)
 - Consider training intervals depending on staff experience
- Consider opportunities provided by reduction or shutdown of operations
 - Consider developmental and learning opportunities
 - Revision of processes and regulations
 - Maintenance of aircraft and ground equipment
- Consider IT systems
 - Ensure critical software and hardware updates are made
 - Have a back-up for when IT systems fail
 - Avoid non-critical software and hardware updates
- Consider intensifying shared safety working across the industry through communication
- Consider level of staff turnover

HUMAN FACTORS

- Consider reduced performance of staff and increased risk in the system due to
 - Fear
 - Uncertainty about the situation and future
 - Increased stress
 - Increased pressures
 - Distraction
 - Complacency
 - Physiological reasons
 - Psychological reasons
- Consider staff support
 - Activate staff or peer support programs
 - Activate in house human factor managers (if available)
 - Offer safety department for support in safety matters
 - Offer support by human resource department
 - Consider creating a company community for mutual support
 - Consider extending staff support to furloughed or redundant staff
- Consider personal relationships between staff retained and those furloughed or made redundant
- Ensure awareness of
 - The mental health state of those people continuing to work
 - The potential for special cases amongst the work force
 - Reduced quality of crew rest
 - Potential reduction in general fitness levels leading to reduced performance
 - The long-term physiological and psychological consequences of the crisis
 - The possibility that staff fearing for their jobs might not behave rationally (decreased reporting, etc)
- Ensure just culture policy is known and understood
- Ensure staff stay engaged in “company thinking”
- Consider impact of loss of routine amongst staff, especially junior staff

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

People

- Ensure staff available to operate reduced schedule or ad-hoc flights
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness

- Consider skills, knowledge and qualification distribution across the route network
- Consider increased flight data monitoring to identify precursors
- Consider impact of interrupted training (initial and recurrent)
- Consider use of enhanced crew complements to help maintain currency
- Consider management pressures on min fuel, etc.
- Consider crew currency and knowledge of available airfields
- Consider physiological requirements for crews at airports and on layovers (hotels, food, etc)
- Consider the fatigue risk boundaries
- Consider effects of increased pressure on the remaining crews to service the program as more crews isolate
- Ensure availability of adequately trained check flight crews

Process

Pre-flight

- Consider increased attention to the accuracy and currency of NOTAMS
- Consider evaluation of possible destinations and proactively risk assess and organize: Airport analysis and risk assessment
- Consider creating semi-permanent crew pairings
- Consider the use of an out-and-back policy for flights to avoid stays at outstations where practicable
- Confirm timely availability of required regulatory approvals
- Consider applying for waivers if necessary
- Consider SOPs for airlines that do not routinely operate cargo only
- Consider a process for carriage of engineers
- Consider mutual support to facilitate movement of cargo aircrews when passenger flight schedules are reduced
- Consider mitigations for insufficient flight training device capacity to maintain crew currency
- Consider weight and balance issues due to unusual load factors
 - Cabin safety for passenger main decks
 - Consider emergency equipment for carrying cargo in passenger cabins
 - Consider Dangerous Goods Regulations and policy

Flight

- Consider the available air traffic service level
- Consider the availability of en-route and destination diversions
- Consider risk analysis and processes for unusual operations, e.g. mixed passenger/cargo

- Consider limiting access to aircraft by ground staff for non-essential activities
- Consider availability of transport and hotels
- Consider raising crew awareness of on last-minute changes to loads, e.g no shows, rebookings from other airlines
- Ensure limited crew exposure during turn around; consider limiting crew walk-arounds
- Ensure availability of maintenance at outstations
- Consider spare aircraft planning/availability for 'aircraft on ground' at outstation
- Ensure coordination between network planning, flight ops and maintenance when storing aircraft
- Consider management and nature of ferry flights to maintenance bases for aircraft storage

Technical

- Consider aircraft storage plan (short, medium, long-term).
 - Rolling short-term storage may breach AMM
- Ensure maintenance plan reflects expected flying rates
- Ensure that all required ground services are available
- Ensure that the fuel service meets regulatory standards
- Ensure that the de-icing service meets regulatory standards
- Ensure transport back to base for crew having delivered aircraft to maintenance bases for shutdown

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider reduced operating hours rather than reduced staffing levels if controller availability is low
- Consider training and checking requirements and expiry dates
- Consider single point human failure in low staffing situations

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS
- Consider suspending all routine group training activities
- Ensure safety assessment of any traffic pattern changes are performed
- Consider establishing crisis information flow channels with adjacent ATC units, airports in your airspace and emergency services

- Consider existing procedures and ‘Letters of Agreement’
- Consider development of plans in case adjacent ATC units close down
- Ensure regular risk analyses conducted

Technical

- Ensure adequate availability of qualified manpower for technical resilience
- Consider only essential maintenance activities should be carried out
- Ensure availability and maintenance of a spare ops room and remote/mobile towers

AIRPORTS

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider risk of airside staff complacency due to reduced ramp activity levels

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS
- Ensure continuation of active wildlife control measures
- Ensure sufficient provision of ground handling services such as toilet cleaning and galley replenishment
- Ensure that the airfield has a master parking plan and that standard and crisis level capacity are known
- Consider potential risk from blocked runway/taxiway due to parked aircraft

Technical

- Consider requirement to keep aerodrome facilities and services operational and certified
- Consider potential for surface damage from long-term parking of aircraft

MRO / MAINTENANCE

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Ensure enough qualified maintenance personnel is available for storage of aircraft
- Consider training and checking requirements and expiry dates

Process

- Consider possible reduced availability of spare parts
- Consider the reliability of aircraft on ground service levels

- Consider potential for extended MEL/DDL ops
- Ensure coordination between network planning, flight ops and maintenance for immediate availability and storage of aircraft and engines
- Consider risks arising from long-term parking
- Consider adverse weather conditions when preparing long-term storage
- Consider process for switching from short- to long-term storage
- Ensure availability of sufficient equipment for aircraft storage, e.g. covers, plugs etc

Technical

- Ensure compliance with AMM for aircraft and engine shut down and storage
- Ensure security of stored aircraft
- Check for adequate and suitable parking positions for stored aircraft

GROUND OPERATIONS

People

- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider risk of airside staff complacency due to reduced ramp activity levels

Process

- Ensure continuous availability of sufficient ground service equipment
- Consider possible reduction in service levels such as load sheet preparation
- Consider the process for storage and maintenance of ground service equipment

Technical

- Consider possible reduction in service levels such as de-icing, snow clearing,

MANUFACTURERS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff in customer support and safety commensurate with the actual level of operations

Process

- Consider the reliability and continued capability of 'aircraft on ground' service levels
- Ensure assistance to airlines in their maintenance of continued airworthiness tasks

Technical

- Ensure availability of advice on aircraft storage, de-storage, cabin air systems and passenger safety

REGULATORS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff available to handle system demands
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider reduced staffing levels when considering the rigour of audit response times, etc (i.e., do not unnecessarily increase pressure on organisations)

Process

- Ensure rapid alignment at the political level so that operational clearances can be set in place rapidly, (i.e., European Commission approval for EASA to act on behalf of cargo teams)
- Consider short-term rule changes for protection of critical teams (like cargo crews)
- Consider receiving requests for waivers
- Consider crisis planning for the different stakeholders and involvement of the safety departments
- Consider reminding all stakeholders to involve their safety managers in the crisis planning and discussions
- Consider flight time limit alleviations
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider the use of waivers rather than extensions to meet periodic licence and training requirements
- Consider developing a “go to” plan of short-term rules for such events (i.e., no one except crews on a cargo aircraft)
- Consider a global waiver on some current security procedures e.g. cabin and flight crews hand sanitizer
- Consider provisions to ground handlers on the minimum level of services to be provided during a crisis situation
- Consider extending training intervals

SAFETY ASPECTS OF RE-ESTABLISHING OPERATIONS

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider system ability to accelerate from a prolonged period of reduced ops
- Consider a progressive and coordinated restart of operations
- Ensure build-up of activity matches operational context capability
- Consider all operations as non-normal and therefore a threat to safety
- Ensure cost pressures do not unduly reduce acceptable safety levels
- Consider possible culture change as the company or organization goes into financial survival thinking
- Ensure sufficient staff available commensurate with the actual level of operations
- Ensure continued use of your SMS to its full potential
 - Carry out a progressive risk analysis prior to re-opening routes
 - Be aware that risk levels of each flight will change from locality to locality and with each type of operation due to the state of the crisis resolution
 - Consider the threat of increased risk acceptance (get the job done, save the airline, less loss of jobs)
 - Consider the risk of missed or reduced safety or quality assurance (audits, etc)
 - Share risk assessments and experiences with other operators
- Ensure effective internal and external communication
- Ensure continued facility access for staff (i.e., expiry of access badges, pass codes etc.)
- Consider staff involvement in process improvements
- Consider training
 - Consider system capacity due to increased demand in the aftermath of a crisis
 - Ensure build-up of activity matches system capability
 - Carry out critical path analysis
 - Use all available means for training delivery (video, video conferencing, etc)
 - Consider training intervals depending on staff experience
- Consider IT systems
 - Ensure critical software and hardware is updated and functional
 - Have a back-up for when IT systems fail
 - Ensure build-up of activity matches system capability
 - Carry out critical path analysis
 - Avoid non-critical software and hardware updates in the early phases of re-establishing operations

- Consider level of staff turnover
- Consider potential for delays or cancellations to planned infrastructure improvements

HUMAN FACTORS

- Consider reduced performance of staff and increased risk in the system due to
 - Fear
 - Uncertainty about the situation and future
 - Increased stress
 - Increased pressures
 - Distraction
 - Complacency
 - Physiological reasons
 - Psychological reasons
- Consider staff support
 - Activate staff or peer support programs
 - Activate in-house human factor managers (if available)
 - Offer safety department for support in safety matters
 - Offer support by human resource department
 - Consider creating a company community for mutual support
 - Consider extending staff support to furloughed or redundant staff
- Consider personal relationships between staff retained and those furloughed or made redundant
- Ensure awareness of
 - The mental health state of those people continuing to work
 - The potential for special cases amongst the work force
 - Reduced quality of crew rest
 - Potential reduction in general fitness levels leading to reduced performance
 - The long term physiological and psychological consequences
 - The possibility that staff fearing for their jobs might not behave rationally (decreased reporting, etc)
- Ensure just culture policy is known and understood
- Ensure staff stay engaged in “company thinking”
- Consider impact of loss of routine amongst staff especially junior staff
- Consider ability to ramp teams back to high workload state (normal work)

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

People

- Ensure staff available to operate growing schedule
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness or other reasons
 - Possible staff loss due financial situation
- Consider increased risk due to the potential for lack of currency
- Consider system capacity vs increased regulatory compliance load
 - Simulator availabilities
 - Medical certificates
 - OPC - LPC
 - Licence validities
- Consider skills, knowledge and qualification distribution across the route network
- Consider impact of interrupted initial and recurrent training
- Consider increased flight data monitoring to identify precursors
- Ensure availability of adequately trained check flight crews

Process

Preflight

- Consider increased attention to the accuracy and currency of NOTAMS
- Consider evaluation of possible destinations and proactively risk assess and organize:
Airport analysis and risk assessment
- Consider relaxing turn-around times
- Consider applying for waivers if necessary
- Consider mitigations for insufficient flight training device capacity to maintain crew currency
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider levels of experience when scheduling and pairing
- Ensure build-up of activity matches system capability e.g. training resources
- Consider altering the limitations on crew if the currency or training is significantly deferred:
 - limit the number of aircraft types on which a pilot can act as PIC
 - reduction in crew day
 - higher weather minima
 - crew pairing
 - airport selection

- Consider weight and balance issues due to unusual load factors
 - Cabin safety for passenger main decks
 - Consider emergency equipment for carrying cargo in passenger cabins
- Consider Dangerous Goods Regulations and policy
- Ensure coordination between network planning, flight ops and maintenance when de-storing aircraft

Flight

- Consider the available air traffic service level
- Consider the availability of en-route and destination diversions
- Consider risk analysis and processes for non-normal/non-routine operations, e.g. mixed passenger/cargo
- Consider the validity of the following processes
 - Ensure limited crew exposure during turn around; consider limiting crew walk-arounds
 - Consider limiting access to aircraft by ground staff for non-essential activities
 - Consider availability of transport and hotels
 - Consider management and nature of ferry flights for aircraft positioning

Technical

- Consider technical flight capability and availability
- Ensure all software, firmware, navigation and terrain databases are up to date
- Consider validity of fuel statistics
- Ensure that all required ground services are available
- Ensure that the fuel service meets regulatory standards
- Ensure that the de-icing service meets regulatory standards

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES

People

- Consider increased risk due to the potential for lack of currency
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider training and checking requirements and expiry dates
- Consider single point human failure in low staffing situations
- Consider simulator refresher training

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS

- Consider preparation of a service recovery plan
- Consider work in extended teams (an extra pair of eyes) as traffic levels increase

Technical

- Ensure all equipment is up to date and functioning

AIRPORTS

People

- Consider increased risk due to the potential for lack of currency
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider risk of airside staff complacency due to growing activity levels
- Consider risk of staff work overload due to growing activity levels

Process

- Ensure accuracy, currency and timely transmission of NOTAMS
- Ensure maintenance of active wildlife control measures
- Ensure that all the equipment and airport surfaces are in safe condition
- Consider reduced or changed runway/taxiway availability due to parked aircraft

Technical

- Consider requirement to keep aerodrome facilities and services operational and certified
- Consider potential for surface damage from long-term parking of aircraft
- Consider possible ground damage to aircraft during increase of ground activities
- Consider likelihood of delays or cancellations to planned infrastructure improvements
- Ensure that sufficient engine running capability exists

MRO / MAINTENANCE

People

- Consider increased risk due to the potential for lack of currency
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Ensure adequate training and documentation for maintenance personnel in de-storage activities
- Ensure enough qualified maintenance personnel are available for de-storage of aircraft
- Ensure adequate availability of line maintenance crews to deal with initial bow-wave of defects

Process

- Consider possible reduced availability of spare parts
- Consider potential for extended MEL/DDL ops
- Ensure coordination between network planning, flight ops and maintenance for de-storage of airplanes and engines
- Consider risks arising from long-term parking
- Consider the process for de-storage of aircraft and engines
- Consider optimization of the maintenance and aircraft component checks
- Consider the reliability of 'aircraft on ground' service levels

Technical

- Ensure compliance with AMM for aircraft and engine de-storage
- Ensure all software, firmware, navigation and terrain databases are up to date
- Ensure that all "lifed" or life-limited items are in date
- Consider the need for technical flights in light of level and duration of storage
- Consider possible ground damage to aircraft during prolonged parking

GROUND OPERATIONS

People

- Consider increased risk due to the potential for lack of currency
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider risk of airside staff complacency during growing activity levels
- Consider risk of overload of staff due to growing activity levels

Process

- Ensure a process for coordination between flight ops requirements and ground ops for de-storage of ground service equipment
- Consider de-storage and checks of ground equipment

Technical

- Consider possible ground damage to aircraft during prolonged parking

MANUFACTURERS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff in customer support and safety commensurate with the actual level of operations

Process

- Ensure assistance to airlines in their maintenance of continued airworthiness tasks
- Ensure all software, firmware, navigation and terrain databases are up to date

Technical

- Ensure availability of advice on aircraft de-storage, cabin air systems and passenger safety

REGULATORS

People

- Ensure sufficient staff available to handle system demands
- Consider skills, experience, knowledge and qualification distribution across shifts
 - Possible prolonged staff loss due to sickness
- Consider reduced staffing levels and increasing workloads when considering the rigour of audit response times etc (i.e., do not unnecessarily increase pressure on organisations)
- Ensure sensitivity to the challenges faced by people as they recover normal operation
- Ensure sensitivity of inspectors and auditors

Process

- Consider proportionate oversight during phased return to normal operation
- Consider receiving requests for waivers
- Consider reminding all stakeholders to involve their safety managers in the recovery
- Consider flight time limit alleviations
- Consider availability of medical examiners and potential impact on licensing
- Consider the use of waivers rather than extensions to meet periodic licence and training requirements
- Consider extending the training intervals

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- User comments on this document are welcome and can be forwarded to Flight Safety Foundation as described on the Foundation's website.
- Coronavirus and COVID-19 guidance and other materials, as well as a list of relevant web-based resources, are available on [SKYbrary](#).