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TEMPORARY DEFERMENT OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS) SKILLS TESTING AND EXAMINER RE-DESIGNATION

Effective Date: 24 February 2026

Validity Period: 24 February 2026 to 31 May 2026

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is to formally inform all RPAS stakeholders, including Approved Training Organizations (ATOs), RPAS pilots, and designated examiners, of the temporary deferment of specific licensing activities. This measure is necessary to ensure integrity, consistency, and regulatory compliance of the RPAS licensing framework.

2. SCOPE OF DEFERMENT

2.1 Effective immediately, and until further notice, the following activities are deferred:

- a. RPAS Skills Testing:** The conduct of all RPAS skills tests is deferred.
- b. Examiner Re-designation:** All requests for the re-designation of RPAS Examiners are halted until the standardization exercise is completed.
- c. Certificate Issuance:** The issuance of new RPAS certificates and instructor ratings under Aviation Directives AD 1/2/4-1 and AD 1/2/1-6 are affected by this deferment.

3. REASON FOR DEFERMENT

3.1 The continued conduct of testing under current conditions presents a serious risk to regulatory consistency and procedural fairness. The NCAA's review process revealed significant operational and regulatory concerns:

- a. **Lack of Standardized Documentation**
- b. **Inconsistent Assessment Practices**
- c. **Regulatory and Operational Vulnerability**

3.2 This temporary measure is necessary to address the regulatory and operational gaps identified within the NCAA framework and to ensure a fair and defensible process for all stakeholders.

4. CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND STANDARDIZATION

4.1 To resolve these discrepancies, the NCAA is undertaking the following actions:

- a. **Finalization of Standardized Documentation:** The NCAA is assuming full ownership of the standardization process and is consolidating a single, controlled RPAS Flight Test Guide and associated Skills Test Form for formal approval and uniform industry-wide use.
- b. **Technical Assistance:** The Authority is seeking internal and external technical assistance to strengthen oversight protocols and ensure alignment with international best practices.
- c. **Industry Workshop:** Once the new standards are approved and published, a mandatory workshop will be scheduled for all RPAS examiners and stakeholders to ensure a uniform understanding and application of the new criteria prior to the resumption of testing.

5. IMPACT ON STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The NCAA acknowledges the significant impact this deferment may have on candidates and training organizations. However, this temporary measure is essential to establish a fair, defensible, and standardized testing framework for all participants and to uphold the safety and integrity of the Namibian aviation environment.

5.2 Consequently, this matter is receiving the highest priority to ensure that the standardization exercise and associated documentation are finalized as soon as possible.

6. ENQUIRIES

For further information or clarification, please contact:

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