



Namibia Civil Aviation Authority

**Aviation Directive**

Reference Number: 1/2/3-10

Flight Operations

October 2021

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**HANDLING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**



Namibia Civil Aviation Authority -  
Safety Division

**AVIATION DIRECTIVE**

**Handling of  
Communicable Diseases**

Approval

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	Position	Name	As signed	Date
Developed by	Acting Senior Manager OPS	Tailombuele V. Mombola		17/09/21
Reviewed by	Acting Senior Manager OPS	Tailombuele V. Mombola		17/09/21
Legal revision	Chief Legal Counsel	Christoph Seimelo		22/09/2021
Checked and Recommended for Approval by:	General Manager: Safety	Ericsson M. Nengola		
NCAA Approval	Interim Executive Director of NCAA	Ericsson M. Nengola		27/09/2021





## 1. Legal Authority

1.1 Pursuant to section 38 (6) of the Civil Aviation Act, “the Executive Director may issue an Aviation Directive (“AD”) comprised of a permission, approval or procedure, or the imposition of a condition, restriction or prohibition which the Executive Director believes on reasonable grounds to be –

- a) consistent with the objectives of applicable regulatory requirements, procedures or documents; and
- b) necessary and expedient to better achieve the objects of the Act”.

1.2 This AD sets in place requirements for handling of suspected communicable diseases in flight.

## 2. Background

This directive is provided to address legal omissions in the regulations related to procedures for handling communicable diseases

## 3. Purpose

This directive provides procedures to follow for air operators, owners, and persons in charge of airports in relation to the handling of communicable diseases.

## 4. Applicability

This directive shall apply to all Namibian aircraft owners, operators, and all persons in charge of a Namibian airport.

## 5. Effective Date

This directive shall be effective from the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 until cancelled or superseded.

## 6. References

The following references are pertained to in this document:

- a) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices;



- b) International Health Regulations as applied to Namibia by the International Health Regulations Act 1974 (Act No. 28 of 1974); and
- c) Covid-19 regulations under the Public and Environmental Health Act (Act No, 1 of 2015).
- d) International Air Transport Association Recommended Practices.

## 7. Action Required

- 7.1 An owner or operator of an aircraft or the person in charge of an airport must always be in possession of updated standard operating procedures for infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19 and other communicable diseases that comply with: –
- a) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards and recommended practices;
  - b) International Health Regulations as applied to Namibia by the International Health Regulations Act 1974 (Act No. 28 of 1974); and
  - c) Covid-19 regulations under the Public and Environmental Health Act (Act No, 1 of 2015).
- 7.2 An owner or operator of an aircraft or the person in charge of an airport should ensure where possible the operating procedures mentioned in 7.1 above are in line with International Air Transport Association Recommended Practices.
- 7.2.1 The operator shall have a procedure for the transmission, as required, of a General Declaration form to the State authorities.
- 7.2.2 The General Declaration is required to contain a section on Declaration of Health. This will contain the name and seat number or function of persons on board with illnesses other than airsickness or the effects of accidents, who may be suffering from a communicable disease.
- 7.2.3 A fever – temperature 38°C/100°F or greater – associated with one or more of the following signs is an indication of the likelihood that the person is suffering from a communicable disease:
- a) Appearing obviously unwell;
  - b) Persistent coughing;



- c) Impaired breathing;
- d) Persistent diarrhoea;
- e) Persistent vomiting;
- f) Skin Rash;
- g) Bruising or bleeding without previous injury.

7.2.4 Cases of ill persons disembarked during a previous stop should also be reported.

7.3 An operator of an aircraft or the person in charge of an airport shall establish a procedure for the crew or staff to evaluate a traveller with a suspected communicable disease, based on the presence of a fever and certain other signs or symptoms.

7.4 The operator or person in charge of an airport shall include the communicable diseases related procedures in the operations manual and cabin crew manual (if applicable).

7.5 Operators shall establish procedures in the operations manual for the pilot-in-command to report promptly to air traffic control (ATC) a suspected communicable disease, to facilitate provision for the presence of any special medical personnel and equipment necessary for the management of public health risks on arrival. The transmission shall include the following information:

- a) Aircraft identification;
- b) Departure aerodrome;
- c) Destination aerodrome;
- d) Estimated time of arrival;
- e) Number of persons on board;
- f) Number of suspected cases on board; and
- g) Nature of the public health risk, if known.



7.6 One or more universal precaution kit shall be carried in all passenger carrying aircraft. When outbreaks of communicable disease are of concern, more kits should be carried. The kits are for use by crew or passengers in managing incidents of ill health associated with a case of suspected communicable disease or in the case of illness involving contact with body fluids (for example vomiting). Contents of a universal kit should include:

- a) Dry powder that can convert small liquid spill into a sterile granulated gel;
- b) Germicidal disinfectant for surface cleaning;
- c) Skin wipes;
- d) Face/eye mask (separate or combined);
- e) Gloves (disposable);
- f) Protective apron;
- g) Large absorbent towel;
- h) Pick-up scoop with scraper;
- i) Bio-hazard disposal waste bag;
- j) Instructions.

## 8 Enforceability of the Directive

Aircraft owners and operators and airport operators are expected to comply with this directive within a reasonable period of time. Non compliance shall attract enforcement action.

## 9 Issued by

  
Ericsson M. Nengola  
Interim Executive Director of Civil Aviation

27/09/2021

