

Remarks by DG of Kazakhstan CAA, Mr. Peter Griffiths
to the EUR/NAT DGCA on the GIR and regional implementation plan (24 July 2020)

Hello everyone dear participants of the webinar!

First of all I would like to thank the ICAO EUR NAT Regional Office for the opportunity to share our experience today.

I would like briefly inform about the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID in Kazakhstan and the activities of the AAK during the Pandemic period.

From the middle of March of this year, by the Decree of the President, a state of emergency was introduced, which operated until the beginning of May. Accordingly, the quarantine regime entered into force. In order to ensure the safety of the population of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a state commission was created to ensure the state of emergency, whose members are all heads of ministries, headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Guided by international experience and ICAO recommendations, the AAK has developed and issued temporary procedures for extending the validity of all subjects of the civil aviation industry which involve the extension of current licences/certificates until November 30, 2020. All existing differences were reflected in the EFOD system.

At the beginning of May, a presidential order was signed to end the state of emergency and, in accordance with, allowed domestic flights between Almaty and Nur-Sultan. Initially the requirements for these flights for passengers, operators and airport personnel were approved, in particular:

1. Social distance in the terminal and on board the aircraft;
2. Certificate of passing the COVID test for passengers;
3. Compliance with the mask regime at airports and aircraft;
4. Temperature measurement at the entrance to the airport;
5. No entry to the Airport Area for accompanying persons.

The first two have now been removed.

Together with the Civil Aviation Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, we were able to prove that social distance on board the aircraft does not carry any high risks for the spread of the virus for passengers and crew, it is enough to observe the mask regime and other sanitary standards. A review by the State safety teams of the Republic have not revealed any cases of transmission on board aircraft.

Since the beginning of the quarantine regime in the country, the AAK has held a number of Webinars for operators, where we provided clarifications and conditions for the renewal of Certificates, Aviation Personnel Licenses, as well as recommendations on simplifying procedures for airport services.

As I noted earlier, domestic flights began resuming from May 1st and following the publication of the CART task force report, we reviewed the measures we had already taken. I would like to note that all the CART's key principles, categories, recommendations, and guidance materials undoubtedly help States to ensure the safe and reliable resumption of aviation activities and their restoration.

Based on these recommendations, a COVID contingency plan was developed and sent to all airports in the country.

Recommendations for Airlines, airports on organizing measures to prevent the spread of COVID were sent for approval to the state body. All measures and recommendations are based on the documents of ICAO, IATA, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) for WHO members and regulatory legal documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has worked with EASA to implement pax to cargo conversions for humanitarian aid and implemented the same exemptions as EASA countries.

We also recommended to simplify the procedure for receiving sanitary cargo, and, accordingly, while maintaining Aviation security measures, try to ensure an unhindered procedure for the departure of a cargo ship.

There were also procedures for simplifying formalities for the free movement of the crew between the regions of the country and exemption from quarantine measures.

International cooperation is one of the key criteria that ensures the unification of efforts in ensuring the recovery of aviation at the international level. Kazakhstan joined the CAPSCA Collaborating Mechanism.

The next stage in the restoration of the International aviation in Kazakhstan, as well as in the world as a whole, is the gradual recovery of international flights, taking into account the epidemiological situation in the countries. So, from June 20 of this year flights to Turkey and from June 22 to Korea were resumed. It is planned to gradually restore other international routes with other countries, when the risks from health issues are reduced in Kazakhstan, strict quarantine was re-introduced from July 5 this year due to spike. Until the lifting of the strict quarantine, decisions on increasing international traffic will be made and a further resumption of international flights.

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