

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA Safety Division - Flight Operations

Ittigen, 07.05.2020

Dear examiners

A challenging, a special time we look back on, in which we live and will continue to live. What is right? What is wrong? What is opportune? What is recommended and what is regulation?

Some answers we will only know conclusively in years to come. Others can at best be answered after a careful interpretation of regulation texts, discussions and campaign material. Very little is explicitly and unambiguously prescribed. But even that only until the next Federal Council media conference. No easy time. Neither personally nor with regard to our examiner activities.

With the phased opening of the lock-down, the demand for flight exams will increase significantly. The industry should be given the best possible conditions for economic recovery as quickly as possible. We examiners are making an important contribution to this. Let us make this effort. However, with respect and care we do not want to unnecessarily jeopardize the hard-won control of the Covid-19.

We would like to share with you the views that are valid today:

- Examiner activity, because strictly speaking outside of a training organization, was and is not prohibited.
- Every examiner, as long as he is not contractually bound by his employment contract, may at any time
 cancel an exam at his own responsibility or not accept it at all. The reasons may simply be of a private
 nature.
- From 11 May onwards, flight schools with an appropriate protection concept may again offer instruction and flight training with up to 5 persons (instructors included).
- It is expected that (subject to the decision of the Federal Council on 27 May 2020) flying instruction in class (over 5 persons) will be permitted again from 8 June.

We would ask you to continue to consult the regular updated information on the FOCA homepage, COVID-19, "Notice to professionals".

We consider the following measures to be useful when conducting a flight examination:

- The examiner requires with invitation that the candidate carries a protective mask and disinfectant for the examination.
- Examiner and candidate should clean their hands with soap and/or disinfectant before and after the examination.
- At the beginning of the examination, the examiner uses a question to make sure that the candidate does not show any flu symptoms.
- During the briefing the safety distance of 2m must be kept.
- Exam forms and identification papers are exchanged contactlessly (taking documents, keeping distance, taking documents).
- The cockpit (or balloon basket) will be disinfected in the best possible way before each examination.
- If the distance of 2m cannot be maintained over a longer period of time during the examination, wearing protective masks is a good way of not putting yourself and the candidates to unnecessary exposure (protective goggles and hygienic gloves are not necessary).

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If the infrastructure or an aircraft of a training organisation is used for the examination, its protection concept (Schutzkonzept) must be taken into account.

Now we wish you and your loved ones good health, the recognition of the positive aspects during this time and look forward to a hopefully soon physical exchange with you.

With kind regards from Ittigen Your SBFP-Crew