

FAQs – Alert Level 3 and Aviation

For full information on what is and is not permitted under Alert Level 3, please look here.

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Commercial Aviation Activities

What commercial aviation activity can be undertaken at Alert Level 3?

All commercial aviation activity that does not require face-to-face contact with customers can recommence under Alert Level 3 providing:

- Workplaces can operate safely, including complying with Alert Level 3 requirements, and meeting all health and safety obligations
- There is no face-to-face interaction or physical contact with customers (except in the case of activity delivering essential services)
- Appropriate public health measures, including physical distancing of workers, can be followed.

Any workplace recommencing operations at Alert Level 3, including all commercial aviation operators, must have a [COVID-19 safety plan](#) that ensures they have effective COVID-19 controls in place and the health and safety of workers and other people isn't put at risk from changes that are made to work arrangements because of the pandemic. This plan must have been discussed and shared with workers, contractors and suppliers before work starts.

Any commercial aviation activity that requires face-to-face contact with customers, including having customers inside an aircraft, cannot occur at Alert Level 3 unless it is in the delivery of, in direct support of the delivery of, essential services.

Are maintenance organisations able to recommence work under Alert Level 3?

Maintenance organisations can undertake all maintenance activity providing their workplace is operating in accordance with the guidelines for operating safely and providing there is no face-to-face interaction or physical contact with customers (except in the case of activity delivering essential services), and providing that the maintenance activity can be undertaken within the constraints of permissible movement of aircraft under Alert Level 3. Note that recreational flying is not permitted under Alert Level 3, and the movement of recreational aircraft for maintenance must be approved by CAA.

Can passenger transport services be provided?

Commercial air operators may undertake air transport or commercial transport activities only in direct support of an essential service or if it is freight, rather than passenger-based. Any passenger air

operations would involve face-to-face interaction with customers and is therefore not permitted under Alert Level 3. The exception to this is where the passenger air transport operator has been given Government approval to undertake passenger air transport operations and they are doing so in accordance with the guidance for domestic air services.

Can external load operations be conducted?

Commercial external load operations can be conducted providing there is no face-to-face or physical contact with customers, and providing the public health measures, including physical distancing, are complied with.

Can I conduct agricultural operations at Alert Level 3?

Any agricultural operations required to support essential services that were permitted under Alert Level 4 can continue under Alert Level 3.

In addition, any commercial aviation activity, including agricultural operations, that does not require face-to-face contact with customers can recommence under Alert Level 3 providing:

- They can operate safely, including complying with Alert Level 3 requirements, and meeting all health and safety obligations
- There is no face-to-face interaction or physical contact with customers (except in the case of activity delivering essential services)
- Required Alert Level 3 public health measures, including physical distancing of workers, can be followed.

Any workplace recommencing operations at Alert Level 3, including all commercial aviation operators, must have a [COVID-19 safety plan](#) that ensures they have effective COVID-19 controls in place and the health and safety of workers and other people isn't put at risk from changes that are made to work arrangements because of the pandemic. This plan must have been discussed and shared with workers, contractors and suppliers before work starts.

Any commercial aviation activity that requires face-to-face contact with customers, including having customers inside an aircraft, cannot occur at Alert Level 3 unless it is in the delivery of, in direct support of the delivery of, essential services.

Are Part 102 operations permitted for non-essential services?

Any commercial aviation activity, including Part 102 operations, that does not require face-to-face contact with customers can recommence under Alert Level 3 providing:

- They can operate safely, including complying with Alert Level 3 requirements, and meeting all health and safety obligations
- There is no face-to-face interaction or physical contact with customers (except in the case of activity delivering essential services)
- Required Alert Level 3 public health measures, including physical distancing of workers, can be followed.

Any workplace recommencing operations at Alert Level 3, including all commercial aviation operators, must have a [COVID-19 safety plan](#) that ensures they have effective COVID-19 controls in place and the

health and safety of workers and other people isn't put at risk from changes that are made to work arrangements because of the pandemic. This plan must have been discussed and shared with workers, contractors and suppliers before work starts.

Any commercial aviation activity that requires face-to-face contact with customers, including having customers inside an aircraft, cannot occur at Alert Level 3 unless it is in the delivery of, in direct support of the delivery of, essential services.

Can I conduct scenic, charters or CTO's?

No aviation activity that requires face to face contact with customers is permitted under Alert Level 3 unless it is for the provision of essential services.

Currency, Medicals, Renewals, Flight Training and Examinations

Can I fly to keep current?

Please refer to the guidance on the Ministry of Transport website. No recreational aviation activities are permitted at Alert Level 3. Commercial pilots are able to fly to keep current providing this is being done as part of a business operation.

Can ASPEQ recommence examination services?

Examinations that can be conducted remotely, or in groups of no more than 10 people providing there is physical distancing of at least 1 metre between all individuals at all times. Aspeq Ltd is looking at options for how this might be carried out under level 3. Practical examinations can only be conducted if physical distancing and other public health measures are maintained at all times so this will mean most practical flight examinations cannot proceed under Alert Level 3.

Can I conduct or undertake flight training?

Aviation training ground courses should be done remotely wherever possible, but if not, learning facilities may open with face-to-face teaching for groups of no more than 10 people, including the lecturer/instructor, providing there is physical distancing of at least 1 metre between all individuals at all times. Each group should not interact with others. Simulator training can occur providing the requirements for physical distancing as detailed above can be maintained.

Practical flight training is not permitted under Alert Level 3.

Can I do my FCCC/Ag renewal/IFR renewal?

No aviation activity that requires face to face contact with customers is permitted under Alert Level 3 unless it is for the provision of essential services.

My currency will lapse, can I conduct flying to remain current?

No recreational aviation activities are permitted at Alert Level 3. This includes flying for currency requirements. Commercial pilots are able to fly to keep current providing this is being done as part of a business operation. [Exemption 20/EXE/56](#) remains in force to 24 June 2020.

Can pilots and air traffic controllers complete their medical certificate requirements with their ME's?

Not under Alert Level 3.

Can pilots and air traffic controllers complete any MC testing requirements e.g. specialists, cardiologists etc?

Not under Alert Level 3.

UAV Operations

I'm a Part 102 certificate holder, how do I get an Operational Competency Assessment done?

Please email RPAS@caa.govt.nz

Are Part 102 operations permitted for non-essential services?

Any commercial aviation activity, including Part 102 operations, that does not require face-to-face contact with customers can recommence under Alert Level 3 providing:

- They can operate safely, including complying with Alert Level 3 requirements, and meeting all health and safety obligations
- There is no face-to-face interaction or physical contact with customers (except in the case of activity delivering essential services)
- Required Alert Level 3 public health measures, including physical distancing of workers, can be followed.

Any workplace recommencing operations at Alert Level 3, including all commercial aviation operators, must have a [COVID-19 safety plan](#) that ensures they have effective COVID-19 controls in place and the health and safety of workers and other people isn't put at risk from changes that are made to work arrangements because of the pandemic. This plan must have been discussed and shared with workers, contractors and suppliers before work starts.

Any commercial aviation activity that requires face-to-face contact with customers, including having customers inside an aircraft, cannot occur at Alert Level 3 unless it is in the delivery of, in direct support of the delivery of, essential services.

Are recreational UAV operations allowed now?

Recreational drone use is permitted providing the activity is undertaken in accordance with all Alert Level 3 restrictions including physical distancing, the limitations on personal movement, and at all times in compliance with Civil Aviation Rules.

Recreational Flying

Is recreational flying allowed under Alert Level 3?

Please refer to the guidance on the Ministry of Transport website. No recreational aviation activities are permitted at Alert Level 3 with the exception of recreational drone use, which can be undertaken in a limited way. Recreational drone use is permitted providing the activity is undertaken in accordance with

all Alert Level 3 restrictions including physical distancing, the limitations on personal movement, and at all times in compliance with Civil Aviation Rules.

Are recreational flight and adventure aviation activities permitted if it can be demonstrated that this can be achieved safely?

No recreational flying, including adventure aviation, is permitted under Alert Level 3. Commercial adventure aviation activities would require face to face contact with customers so are therefore not permitted under Alert Level 3.

Can I conduct a private flight for my own recreation?

No recreational flying is permitted under Alert Level 3.

Aircraft Maintenance

Can I maintain my aircraft under Alert Level 3, including flying it for continuing airworthiness?

Aircraft can be maintained according to manufacturers' maintenance instructions. If your aircraft is a recreational aircraft, any maintenance activity including flying it for continuing airworthiness that requires a breach of Alert Level 3 conditions (i.e. contact outside of your isolation bubble, any travel beyond that permitted within your local area e.g. going to work, shopping or getting exercise and flying the aircraft), can only be undertaken with CAA approval. More information on the approval process is available [here](#) and will be updated shortly to reflect the Level 3 conditions.

Maintenance on recreational aircraft not required for continuing airworthiness in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions is not permitted under Alert Level 3.

I have calendar life inspections due. Can I get them done?

Aircraft can be maintained according to manufacturers' maintenance instructions. If your aircraft is a recreational aircraft, any maintenance activity including flying it for continuing airworthiness that requires a breach of Alert Level 3 conditions (i.e. contact outside of your isolation bubble, any travel beyond that permitted within your local area e.g. going to work, shopping or getting exercise and flying the aircraft), can only be undertaken with CAA approval. More information on the approval process is available [here](#) and will be updated shortly to reflect the Level 3 conditions.

Can I fly to a maintenance facility for maintenance requirements?

All aircraft can be maintained for continuing airworthiness in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Where the flight is necessary to achieve this it is permitted, subject to the necessary approvals for recreational aircraft. In the case of recreational aircraft prior approval from the CAA is required. More information on the approval process is available [here](#) and will be updated shortly to reflect the Level 3 conditions.

Will pilots be allowed to access aircraft for essential engine servicing and ground runs?

Aircraft can be maintained according to manufacturers' maintenance instructions. If your aircraft is a recreational aircraft, any maintenance activity including flying it for continuing airworthiness that requires a breach of Alert Level 3 conditions (i.e. contact outside of your isolation bubble, any travel beyond that permitted within your local area e.g. going to work, shopping or getting exercise and flying

the aircraft), can only be undertaken with CAA approval. More information on the approval process is available [here](#) and will be updated shortly to reflect the Level 3 conditions.

Maintenance on recreational aircraft not required for continuing airworthiness in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions is not permitted under Alert Level 3.

CAA Activity

Will CAA process my amendment request?

CAA is an essential service and continues to operate within the guidelines for Alert Level 3, which means no face to face contact with customers. Where the amendment can be processed without face-to-face contact then it will be processed as normal?

Will CAA conduct recertification?

Please refer to the regulatory relief initiatives information for more information on recertification

Will CAA conduct my SMS certification as scheduled?

Please refer to the regulatory relief initiatives information for more information on SMS certification.

Other

When will CAA announce a decision on whether or not the 25-26 May Queenstown Aviation Safety Fundamentals course will go ahead?

CAA will re-evaluate whether this course will go ahead after the scheduled Government announcement on 11 May regarding Alert Levels.

Can I fight a fire?

Firefighting is an essential service and therefore permitted under Alert Levels 4 and 3, however this is controlled by FENZ and can only be conducted at their request as an emergency service.