

Summary Table - What Aviation Activity Can Occur At Alert Level 3?

COVID-19 Guidance Specifically for Aviation

Please refer to the Alert Level 3 [general guidance](#), [guidance for businesses](#), and [travel and transport guidance](#) for further information. Please also refer to the [Alert Level 3 FAQs](#) and the [Travel and Transport COVID-19 FAQs](#).

Commercial Aviation Activity

Commercial aviation activity that was not permitted under Alert Level 4 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 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.

This means that:

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 use and movement of aircraft under Alert Level 3 – see Recreational Aviation Activity and Aircraft Maintenance Activity below.

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](#).

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.

Commercial agricultural aviation activities can be undertaken at Alert Level 3 providing there is no face to face interaction with customers, and all guidelines for operating safely as a workplace can be met, including physical distancing and other public health guidelines.

Commercial remotely piloted aircraft activity can be undertaken at Alert Level 3 providing there is no face to face interaction with customers, and all guidelines for operating safely as a workplace can be met, including physical distancing and other public health guidelines.

Commercial adventure aviation activities are not permitted at Alert Level 3 as this would involve face-to-face and or physical contact with customers.

Aviation Training Activity

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.

Recreational Aviation Activity

Please refer to the Ministry of Transport [guidance](#). 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.

Aircraft Maintenance Activity

Please refer to the Ministry of Transport [guidance](#). Aircraft can be maintained according to manufacturers' maintenance instructions. Maintenance on aircraft that would not otherwise be able to fly under Alert Level 3 conditions (i.e. recreational aircraft) 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.

Public Aviation Events

Public aviation events such as airshows cannot occur at Alert Level 3.