What Aviation Activity Can Occur at Alert Level 3?

**COVID-19 General Guidance**  
**Detailed Settings At Each Alert Level**  

**Public health measures**  
People should keep 2 metres apart outside home where possible (apart from with people within their extended bubble). This requirement does not apply to emergency and frontline public services (e.g. healthcare). In a controlled environment such as a workplace, 1 metre distancing is required.

**Personal movement**  
People instructed to stay at home, other than for essential personal movement:
- Accessing local services and businesses,
- Going to work or school (only for those who have to),
- Low-risk recreation in local area,
- Shared and extended bubble arrangements,
- Emergencies and giving effect to court orders,
- Travelling to permitted gatherings,
- Relocating a home or business,
- Medical reasons,
- Those who have an exemption to travel because of compassionate reasons,
- Foreign nationals leaving New Zealand,
- New Zealanders resident in the Realm returning home, and
- People arriving in New Zealand from overseas and returning home after 14 days’ isolation/quarantine at port of arrival (except air and marine crew).

**Travel and transport**  
Travel is allowed for the following essential personal movement in your local area:
- Accessing local services and businesses,
- Going to work or school,
- Low-risk recreation in local area,
- Shared bubble arrangements and
- Travelling to permitted gatherings.

Those travelling on public transport should avoid peak times unless they are going to work or school.

Travel between regions is allowed for the following essential personal movement:
- Workers travelling to do essential work,  
- Going to work or school (only in neighbouring region),  
- Shared bubble arrangements,  
- Relocating a home or business,  
- Those travelling for medical reasons,  
- Emergencies and giving effect to court orders,  
- Those who have an exemption to travel because of compassionate reasons,  

People instructed to stay at home, other than for essential personal movement:
- Going to work or school.

**COVID-19 Travel and Transport Guidance**  
**Related to Aviation (link here and here)**  

**Domestic Air Services**  
You can only travel on domestic air services if:
- you are travelling to do essential work,  
- you are relocating a home or business,  
- you are travelling for medical reasons,  
- you are travelling because of an emergency, or to give effect to a Court Order,  
- you have an exemption to travel because of compassionate reasons,  
- you are going to a funeral or tangihanga,  
- you are a foreign national leaving New Zealand,  
- you are a New Zealander resident in the Realm (Tokelau, Niue, Cook Islands) returning home,  
- you have arrived in New Zealand from overseas and have completed 14 days’ of managed isolation or quarantine at the port of your arrival (except air and marine crew),  
- you have been ‘stuck in wrong place’ and need to get back to your home or place of work (in this instance, a one-way trip only is permitted and the region you are travelling to must be at the same alert level, or at a higher alert level).  

Even if you fall within one of the groups above, you cannot travel if: you are required to self-isolate (e.g. you have arrived from overseas); have symptoms of COVID-19; are being tested for COVID-19; or are a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.  

Physical distancing applies. (for example, leave the seat in front of and beside a passenger free).  
Public health measures apply.

**Aircraft Maintenance**  
Aircraft that are not currently being used under Alert Level 4 can be maintained at Alert Level 3 according to manufacturers’ maintenance instructions (under alert level 4, and those unable to operate at alert level 3, approval from the Civil Aviation Authority would be required).

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, direct support of the delivery of, essential services.

**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, 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 services 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.
- Foreign nationals leaving New Zealand (except Cook Strait ferries),
- New Zealanders resident in the Realm returning home, and
- People arriving in New Zealand from overseas and returning home after 14 days’ isolation/quarantine at port of arrival (except air and marine crew).

All other travel is not allowed.

**Workplaces**

People required to work from home unless that is not possible. Workplaces can only open if:
- Workers cannot work from home, and
- Workplaces are operating safely, and
- Customers are not allowed on premises, and
- Businesses can trade without physical contact with customers (e.g. through phone/online orders, delivery, pick-up and drive-through).

Businesses cannot offer services that involve close personal contact, unless it is an essential service, emergency or critical situation. Supermarkets, dairies and petrol stations can have customers on premises. If businesses cannot operate safely, workers must not go to work and premises should remain closed.

“Operating safely” means:
- Complying with Alert Level 3 settings in this table, and
- Meeting appropriate public health requirements for their workplace, including for workers (e.g. putting up physical barriers), and
- Fulfilling all other health and safety obligations.

Before work begins employers must develop a plan for working safely. This includes implementing effective COVID-19 controls and ensuring 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 needs to be discussed with workers, contractors and suppliers before work starts, and should be reviewed regularly.

**Education**

Tertiary education facilities open for limited activities involving small groups (up to 10 people), and with distance learning provision for others.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Recreational Flying</th>
<th>Commercial adventure aviation activities are not permitted at Alert Level 3 as this would involve face-to-face and or physical contact with customers.</th>
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</table>
| Not permitted at Alert Level 3 | **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.  
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| **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 such as airshows cannot occur at Alert Level 3. |