

26/EXE/14

**Exemption from the Requirement in Civil Aviation Rule
CAR 101.155(b)(1), (4), (5), and (c)**

PURSUANT TO Section 322(1)(b) of the Civil Aviation Act 2023 (the Act),

I, Kane Patena, Director of Civil Aviation, being satisfied in accordance with s 322(3) that—

(a) the extent of the exemption is no broader than is reasonably necessary to address the matters that gave rise to the proposed exemption; and

(b) the exemption is consistent with the main purpose of this Act; and

(c) having considered the matters set out in s 322(3)(c), including the additional purposes of this Act and relevant international standards, it is appropriate to grant this exemption;

HEREBY EXEMPT—

any person operating a rocket within 8km* of the Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre (NZTJ)

FROM—

the requirements in CAR 101.155(b) that a person may operate a rocket within 4 km of an aerodrome boundary providing— (1) the rocket does not fly above 400 feet AGL; and (4) it is not operated on or over any active aircraft movement area of an aerodrome; and (5) it is not operated on or over any active runway strip area; and

the requirement in CAR 101.155(c) that a person must not operate a rocket between 4 and 8 km of an aerodrome boundary above 400 feet AGL,

ONLY WITH RESPECT TO

the launching of a rocket above 400 feet AGL within 8km of NZTJ,

PROVIDED THAT—

- a) The rocket operator obtains permission from NZTJ prior to launch; and
- b) All other relevant rules in CAR Part 101 are complied with; and
- c) NZTJ updates its Airspace Co-ordination Plan (ACP) to include the approval of rocket operations conducted under CAR Part 101 when operating within 8km of NZTJ; and
- d) All rocket launches at or within 8km of NZTJ are conducted in accordance with the updated ACP.

*8km starts from the NZTJ's boundary



This exemption shall remain in effect until 1 March 2028, unless withdrawn earlier in writing by the Director.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

1 March 2026

ADMINISTERING AGENCY

The administering agency responsible for administering this Class Exemption is the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand.

AVAILABILITY

Civil Aviation Class Exemptions are available from–

CAA website: <http://www.aviation.govt.nz/>

SIGNED at Wellington)
this 28th day of February 2026)
by Kane Patena)
Director of Civil Aviation)



Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the Class Exemption but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This Class Exemption is secondary legislation and is published by the Civil Aviation Authority on its website and notified in the *Gazette* as required by the Legislation Act 2019.

This exemption permits rocket operators to launch rockets above 400 feet AGL at or within 8km of Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre, provided the associated conditions are complied with.

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019	
Title	Operation of rockets at or within 8km of the Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre [2026]
Empowering Act	Civil Aviation Act 2023
Empowering provision(s)	section 322 of the Civil Aviation Act 2023
Maker Name	Kane Patena, Director of Civil Aviation
Administering Agency	The Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
Date made	28 February 2026
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