
Paragraph 3 of the Schedule

**THE CIVIL AVIATION (INVESTIGATION OF
ACCIDENTS) REGULATIONS**

S.I.55 of 1971.
S.I.95 of 1975.
S.I.72 of 1976.

[21st June, 1971]

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

REGULATION

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application of regulations.
4. Purpose of accident investigation.
5. Accident to be notified.
6. Contents of notice.
7. Removal of damaged aircraft.
8. Inspectors of accidents.
9. Powers of inspectors.
10. Inspector's investigation.
11. Notice and representations.
12. Review Board.
13. Hearing and review.
14. Publication of reports.

REGULATION

- 15. Re-opening of investigation or review.
- 16. Public inquiries
- 17. Rehearing of public inquiries.
- 18. General
- 19. Obstruction

Citation. **1.** These regulations may be cited as the Civil aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations.

Interpretation. **2(1)** In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires-

“commander” in relation to an aircraft means the member of the crew designated as commander of that aircraft by the operator thereof, or failing such a person, the person who is for the time being the pilot in command of the aircraft;

“Director” means the Director General of Civil Aviation;

“Inspector” means a person appointed as an Inspector of Accidents under these regulations;

“operator” in relation to an aircraft means the person for the time being having the management of that aircraft;

“owner” means, where an aircraft is registered, the registered owner;

“pilot in command” in relation to an aircraft means a person who for the time being is in charge of the piloting of the aircraft without being under the direction of any other pilot in the aircraft;

“substantial damage” includes any damage or structural failure which adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft and which would normally require the major repair or replacement of the affected component.

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- (2) The Interpretation and General Provisions Act shall apply with the necessary adaptations for the purpose of interpreting these regulations and otherwise in relation thereto as it applies for the purposes of interpreting, and in relation to, an Act. Cap. 103
3. These regulations relate only to civil aviation and shall apply to accidents arising out of or in the course of air navigation which occur to civil aircraft in or over Seychelles, or elsewhere to civil aircraft registered in Seychelles. Application of regulations
4. The main purpose on investigating accidents under these regulations shall be to determine the circumstances and causes of the accident with a view to avoiding accidents in the future, rather than to ascribe blame to any person. Purpose of accident investigation.
5. An accident shall be notified in accordance with the provisions of regulation 6 if, between the time when any person boards an aircraft with the intention of flight at such time as all persons have disembarked therefrom-
- (a) any person suffers death or serious injury while in or upon the aircraft or by direct contact with the aircraft or anything attached thereto; or
 - (b) the aircraft receives substantial damage.
- 6(1) Where an accident occurs of which notification is required to be given under regulation 5, the commander of the aircraft involved at the time of the accident or if he be killed or incapacitated then the operator of the aircraft shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Director by the quickest means of communication available and in the case of an accident occurring in or over Seychelles, shall also notify forthwith the local police authorities of the accident and of the place where it occurred. Contents of notice
- (2) The notice to the Director referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation shall commence with the identifying abbreviation ACCID, and shall state as far as possible-
- (a) the type, model and the nationality and registration marks of the aircraft;

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- (b) the name of the owner, operator and hirer, if any of the aircraft;
 - (c) the name of the commander of the aircraft;
 - (d) the date and Greenwich mean time of the accident;
 - (e) the last point of departure and the next point of intended landing of the aircraft;
 - (f) the position of the aircraft with reference to some easily defined geographical point;
 - (g)
 - (i) the number of person on board the aircraft at the time of the accident,
 - (ii) the number of those persons killed as a result of the accident,
 - (iii) the number of those persons seriously injured as the result of the accident,
 - (iv) the number of persons killed or seriously injured elsewhere than on the aircraft;
 - (h) the nature of the accident and brief particulars of damage to the aircraft as far as is known.

(3) Where an accident to which these regulations apply occurs, whether in or over Seychelles or elsewhere, the owner, operator, commander or hirer of the aircraft shall, if so required by notice in writing from the Director, send to the Director within such time as may be specified in the notice, such information as is in his possession or control with respect to the accident in such form as the Director may require.

Removal of
damage
aircraft.

7(1) Where an accident occurs in or over Seychelles, or which notification is required to be given under regulation 5, no person other than an authorised person shall have access to the aircraft involved in the accident and the aircraft shall not except under the authority of the Director be removed or otherwise interfered with:

Provided that-

- (i) the aircraft may be removed or interfered with so far as may be necessary for the purpose of extricating persons or animals involved, removing any mails carried by the aircraft, preventing destruction by fire or other cause, or preventing any danger or obstruction to the public or to air navigation or to other transport;
- (ii) goods or passengers' baggage may be removed from the aircraft under the supervision of a police officer but, if the aircraft has come from a place outside Seychelles, shall not be removed from the vicinity of the aircraft except on clearance by or with the consent of an officer of customs;
- (iii) if an aircraft is wrecked on the water, the aircraft or any contents thereof may be removed to such extent as may be necessary for bringing it or them to a place of safety

(2) In this regulation the expression "authorised person" means any person authorised by the Director either generally or specially to have access to any aircraft involved in an accident and includes any police officer or any officer of Customs.

8(1) For the purpose of carrying out investigation into the circumstances and causes of accidents to which these regulations apply the President shall appoint one or more persons to be an Inspector of Inspectors of Accidents.

Inspectors of
accidents.
S.I. 72/1976.

(2) In the case of any accident, whether or not such accident is one of which notification is required to be given under regulation 5, an Inspector shall determine whether or not an investigation is to be carried out.

(3) Without prejudice to the power of an Inspector to seek such advice or assistance as he may deem necessary in making an investigation, the Director may at the request of an Inspector

appoint persons to assist the Inspector in a particular investigation and such persons shall for the purpose of so doing have such of the powers of an Inspector under these regulations as may be specified in their appointment.

Powers of
Inspectors

9. For the purpose of the investigation of any accident to which these regulations apply, an Inspector shall have power-

- (a) by summons under his hand to call before him and examine all such persons as he thinks fit, to require such persons to answer any question or furnish any information or produce any books, papers, documents and articles which the Inspector may consider relevant, and to retain any such books, papers, documents and articles until the completion of the investigation or any inquiry held pursuant to regulation 16 of these regulations;
- (b) to take statements from all such persons as he thinks fit and to require any such person to make and sign a declaration of the truth of the statement made by him;
- (c) to have access to and examine any aircraft involved in the accident and the place where the accident occurred, and for that purpose to require any such aircraft or any part or equipment thereof to be preserved unaltered pending examination;
- (d) to examine, remove, test, take measures for the preservation of, or otherwise deal with, the aircraft or any part thereof or anything contained therein;
- (e) to enter and inspect any place or building the entry or inspection whereof appears to the Inspector to be requisite for the purposes of the investigation or of any inquiry held as aforesaid;
- (f) to take measures for the preservation of evidence.

Inspector's
investigation.
S.I. 95/1975.

10(1) Public notice that an investigation by an Inspector is taking place shall be given in such manner as the Inspector may think fit and shall invite any persons who desire to make

representation concerning the circumstances or causes of the accident to do so in writing within a time to be specified in the notice.

(2) An Inspector's investigation shall be held in private.

(3) Where it appears to the Inspector that in order to resolve any conflict of evidence or that for any other reason it is expedient so to do, he may permit any person to appear before him and to call evidence and examine witnesses.

(4) Every person summoned by the Inspector as a witness in accordance with these regulations shall be allowed such expenses as the Director, with the approval of the Minister for Finance may determine

(5) Subject to the provisions of regulation II, upon completion of an Inspector's investigation the Inspector shall make a report to the Director. The report shall state the circumstances of the accident and conclusions as to the cause, together with any observations and recommendations which the person making the report thinks fit to make with a view to the preservation of life and the avoidance of similar accidents in the future.

11(1) No report shall be made to the Director under regulation 10(5) in respect of an accident until the Inspector has-

Notice and
representations

(a) served a notice under this regulation upon the operator and commander of the aircraft involved in that accident and on any other person, including the Director, whose reputation is, in the Inspector's opinion, likely to be adversely affected by the report, and

(b) considered any representations which may be made to him in accordance with subregulation (3) by or on behalf of the persons served with such notice.

(2) The notice referred to in subregulation (1) shall include particulars of any of those proposed findings and conclusions as to the circumstances and causes of the accident which may affect the person on

whom the notice is served.

- (3) Any representations made pursuant to subregulation (1) shall be in writing and shall be served on the Inspector within 28 days of service of the notice referred to in that paragraph.
- (4) Any person who has been served with a notice pursuant to subregulation (1) shall be served with a copy of the report made to the Director.

Review
board.

12(1) Any person, other than the Director, who has been served with a notice pursuant to regulation 11(1) may, at any time before the expiration of the period of 21 days from the day on which he has been served with a copy of the report to the Director, serve on the Director written notice (hereinafter called "the notice of review") that he wishes those findings and conclusions in the report from which it appears that any degree of blame for the accident may be attributed to him, or to any deceased person whose executor, administrator or other personal representative he is, to be reviewed by a Review Board.

(2) The Review Board shall consist of a person to be appointed for the purpose by the Chief Justice, sitting with such technical Assessors, if any, as may be so appointed.

(3) The notice of review shall state concisely the grounds on which the findings and conclusions in the report are challenged. A copy of the notice of review shall, at the same time as it is served on the Director, be served on the Attorney General and the person requesting the review shall inform the Attorney General whether or not he proposes to be legally represented at the hearing of the review and of the name and address of the barrister or attorney, if any, acting for him, or of any other person who will be representing him at the review.

A copy of the notice of review shall also be served by the person requesting the review on each of the persons on whom the Inspector has served a notice under regulation 11; and for this purpose the person requesting the review may require the Inspector to furnish him with the names and addresses of those persons.

(5) In a case where the Director, having made representations pursuant to regulation 11 (1), wishes those findings and conclusions in the report from which it appears that any degree of blame for the accident may be attributed to the Director to be reviewed by a Review Board appointed under this regulation the Director shall, before the expiration of the period of 14 days from the day of receipt by the Director of the Inspector's report, serve a notice of review on the Attorney General. The Director shall serve a copy of the notice on each of the persons on whom the Inspector has served notice under regulation 11.

13(1) Where notice of review has been served under regulation 12, the Director shall forthwith entrust the review to the appointed Review Board.

Hearing of
review
S.I. 95/1975.

(2) The Director shall serve on the person requesting the review and all persons on whom the Inspector has served a notice under regulations 11, not less than 21 days' notice of the date, time and place of the hearing of the review (hereinafter called "the notice of hearing").

(3) The hearing shall be in public unless the Review Board determines, in relation to the whole or part of the review, that it is to be held in private in the interest of justice or in the public interest.

(4) The review Board shall be assisted by the Attorney General, or by a barrister or attorney instructed by him, who shall present any evidence required by the Review Board and may examine any witnesses giving evidence at the review.

(5) The person requesting the review shall be heard by the Review Board and shall have the right to produce witnesses and examine any other witnesses giving evidence at the review.

(6) Before the date fixed for the hearing of the review the Review Board shall hold a preliminary meeting at which any directions may be given or any preliminary or interlocutory order as to the procedure may be made. Notice of the date, time and place of the preliminary meeting shall be given by the Attorney

General to all persons on whom the notice of hearing has been served and any person intending to make any application to the Review Board at the meeting shall give notice thereof to the Attorney General.

(7) Any person, including the Director, who in the opinion of the Review Board may be affected by the review may be granted leave to appear and to produce witnesses and examine any other witnesses giving evidence at the review. Any application for such leave may be made to the Review Board at the preliminary meeting.

(8) In any proceedings of the Review Board the person requesting the review and any other person appearing pursuant to leave granted under subregulation (7) may appear in person or be represented by any other person whom he may have authorised to represent him.

(9) In addition to all the powers of an Inspector under these regulations, the Review Board may administer the oath to any witness, or require any witness to make the sign a declaration of the truth of the statements made by him in his examination.

(10) Every person summoned by the Review Board as a witness in accordance with this regulation shall be allowed such expenses as the Director, with the approval of the Minister for Finance, may determine.

(11)(a) The Review Board may, if it thinks fit, order any person who appears or is represented as mentioned in subregulation (8) to pay in respect of the costs of the Review Board such sum as may be specified in the order, or the taxed amount of those costs or such part thereof as may be so specified, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Review Board shall, in determining whether to make an order as to costs against any person, have regard to whether or not that person took advantage of such opportunities as were open to him to make representation under regulation 11.

- (b) Any cost required by an order under the foregoing sub-paragraph to the taxed shall be taxed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court.
- (c) Any sum payable by virtue of an order under paragraph (a) shall, if the Supreme Court so orders, be recoverable by execution issued from the Supreme Court or otherwise as if payable under an order of that court.

(12) Upon completion of the review the Review Board shall make a report to the Director containing a summary of the proceedings at the hearing and either confirming or rejecting in whole or in part those findings and conclusions of the Inspector which were the subject of the review, together with its reasons therefore, and the Director shall serve a copy of the report on all persons who appeared or were represented before the Review Board.

14. The Director shall, unless in his opinion there are good reasons to the contrary, cause the Inspector's report and, where a Review Board has been held, the report of the Review Board, to be made public wholly or in part in such manner as he thinks fit:

Publication of reports

Provided that –

- (i) in any case where notice has been given under regulation 11(1), the Inspector's report shall not be published before the expiry of the time for service of a notice of review under regulation 12(1);
- (ii) in any case where a Review Board is held, the Inspector's report shall not be published until the completion of the review.

15(1) In the case of any investigation by an Inspector which has not been the subject of a review and in the case of a review, the Director may cause the investigation to be reopened or, as the case may be, may direct the review to be reheard, in both cases either generally or as to any part thereof, and the Director shall do so-

Reopening of investigation or review

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- (a) if new and important evidence has been discovered,
or
- (c) if for any other reason there is in his opinion ground
for suspecting that a miscarriage of justice has
occurred.

(2) If the Director directs any review to be reheard, the Chief Justice may direct that the review shall be reheard either by the Review Board by whom it was heard in the first instance or by some other Review Board appointed by him to hold the rehearing.

(3) Any investigation reopened or review reheard shall be subject to and conducted in accordance with the provisions of these regulations relating to an Inspector's investigation or review thereof as the case may be.

Public
Inquiries.

16(1) Where it appears to the Director that it is expedient in the public interest to hold a Public Inquiry into the circumstances and causes of, or into any particular matter relating to, an accident to which these regulations apply, he may direct that a Public Inquiry be held by a Commissioner appointed by the Chief Justice. In any such case any investigation by an Inspector relating to the accident or to the particular matter, as the case may be, shall be discontinued except for the purpose of rendering assistance as required by subregulation (3).

(2) The Commissioner (hereinafter called "the court") shall be a barrister or attorney of not less than five years standing and shall be assisted by not less than two Assessors possessing aeronautical, engineering or other special skill or knowledge. The assessors shall be appointed by the Chief Justice.

(3) Where the Director has directed a Public Inquiry to be held, he shall remit the case to the Attorney General, and thereafter the preparation and presentation of the case shall be conducted by the Attorney General or by a barrister or attorney instructed by him; the Inspector shall render such assistance to the Court and to the Attorney General as is in his power.

(4) When a Public Inquiry has been ordered the Attorney General may cause a notice, to be called a notice of inquiry, to be served upon the owner, operator, hirer and commander of any aircraft involved in the accident, as well as upon any person who in his opinion ought to be served with such notice. The notice shall contain a statement of the questions which on the information then in the possession of the Attorney General he intends to raise on the hearing of the inquiry and he may by subsequent notice amend, add to, or omit any of the questions specified in the notice of inquiry.

(5) The Attorney General, the owner, the operator, the hirer, the commander and any other person upon whom a notice of inquiry has been served, shall be deemed to be parties to the proceedings.

(6) Any other person, including the Director, may by leave of the Court appear, and any person who so appears shall thereupon become a party to the proceedings. Any application for such leave may be made to the Court at a preliminary meeting.

(7) At any time before the date appointed for holding the inquiry, the Court may hold a preliminary meeting at which any directions may be given or any preliminary or interlocutory order as to the procedure may be made. Any persons making any application to the Court at the preliminary meeting shall give notice thereof to the Attorney General.

- (8) (a) The Court shall have, for the purposes of the inquiry, all the powers of a Magistrate's Court, and without prejudice to those powers, the Court may -
- (i) enter and inspect, or authorise any person to enter and inspect, any place or building entry or inspection whereof appears to the Court requisite for the purposes of the inquiry;
 - (ii) by summons require the attendance as witnesses of all such persons as the Court thinks fit to call and examine, and require such persons to

answer any questions or furnish any information or produce any books, papers, documents and articles which the Court may consider relevant;

(iii) administer the oath to any such witness, or require any witness to make and sign a declaration of the truth of the statement made by him in his examination;

(b) The Assessors shall have the same power of entry and inspection as the Court.

(9) Affidavits and statutory declarations may, by permission of the Court and saving all just exceptions, be used as evidence at the hearing.

(10) At the time and place appointed for holding the inquiry the Court may proceed with the inquiry whether the parties, upon whom a notice of inquiry has been served, or any of them are present or not.

(11) The Court shall hold the inquiry in open Court save to the extent to which the Court is of opinion that in the interest of justice or in the public interest any part of the evidence, or any argument relating thereto, should be heard in camera.

(12) The proceedings on the inquiry shall commence with the production and examination of witnesses on behalf of the Attorney General. These witnesses, after being examined on behalf of the Attorney General, may be cross-examined on the parties in such order as the Court may direct, and may then be re-examined on behalf of the Attorney General. Questions asked and documents tendered as evidence in the course of the examination of these witnesses shall be open to objection merely on the ground that they do or may raise questions which are not contained in or which vary from the question specified in the notice of inquiry or subsequent notices referred to in subregulation (4).

(13) When the examination of the witnesses produced on behalf of the Attorney General has been concluded, the

Attorney General or the person appearing on his behalf shall state the questions in reference to the accident and to the conduct of person connected with the accident upon which the opinion of the Court is desired. In framing the questions for the opinion of the Court, the Attorney General or such person shall make such modifications in, additions to or omissions from the questions in the notice of inquiry or subsequent notices referred to in subregulation (4) as, having regard to the evidence which has been given, the Attorney General or such person or the Court may think fit.

(14) After the questions for the opinion of the Court have been stated, the Court shall proceed to hear the parties to the proceedings and determine the questions so stated. Each party to the proceedings shall be entitled to address the Court and produce witnesses or recall any of the witnesses who have already been examined for further examination and generally adduce evidence. The parties shall be heard and their witnesses examined, cross-examined and re-examined in such order as the Court shall direct. Further witnesses may also be produced and examined on behalf of the Attorney General and may be cross-examined by the parties and re-examined on behalf on the Attorney General.

(15) When the whole of the evidence in relation to the questions for the opinion of the Court has been concluded any of the parties who desires so to do may address the Court upon the evidence and the Court may be addressed in reply upon the whole case on behalf of the Attorney General.

(16) The Court may adjourn the inquiry from time to time and from place to place, and where an adjournment is asked for by any party to the inquiry the court may impose such terms as to payment of costs or otherwise as it may think just as a condition of granting the adjournment.

(17) The Court shall make a report to the Director stating fully the circumstances of the case and the opinion of the Court touching the causes of the accident or on the particular matter referred to the Court and adding any observations and recommendations

which the Court thinks fit to make with a view to the preservation of life and the avoidance of similar accidents in future.

(18) Each Assessor shall either sign the report with or without reservations, or state in writing his dissent therefrom and his reasons for such dissent, and such reservations or dissent and reasons (if any) shall be forwarded to the Director with the report. The Director shall unless in his opinion there are good reasons to the contrary cause any such report and reservations or dissent and reasons (if any) to be made public wholly or in part in such a manner as he thinks fit.

(19) Every person attending as a witness before the Court shall be allowed such expenses as would be allowed to a witness attending before the Supreme Court, and in case of dispute as to the amount to be allowed, the same shall be referred by the Court to the Registrar of the Supreme Court who, on request signed by the Court, shall ascertain and certify the proper amount of the expenses; provided that in the case of any party to the proceedings or of any person in the employment of such a party, any such expenses may be disallowed if the Court in its discretion so directs.

Rehearing of Public Inquiries 17(1) The Director may, in any case where a Public Inquiry has been held, direct a rehearing of the inquiry either generally or as to any part thereof and shall do so-

- (a) if new and important evidence has been discovered,
or
- (b) if for any other reason there is in his opinion ground for suspecting that a miscarriage of justice has occurred.

(2) If the Director directs any inquiry to be reheard, the Chief Justice may direct that the inquiry shall be re-heard either by the Court by whom the inquiry was heard in the first instance or by some other person appointed by him to hold the rehearing.

(3) Any rehearing shall be subject to, and conducted in accordance with, the provisions of these regulations relating to the holding of Public Inquiries.

18(1) Where an accident has occurred in or over Seychelles to an aircraft registered in any country or territory other than Seychelles, the Director may authorise an investigator appointed by the duly competent authority of that other country or territory to carry out an investigation in Seychelles and in that event the Director shall, so far as he is able facilitate inquiries by the investigator so appointed.

General.

(2) In any investigation by an Inspector or any Public Inquiry an accredited representative of the country or territory in which the aircraft is registered, or of any country or territory in which the aircraft was manufactured or which has, on request, furnished information in connection with the accident, may take part in the investigation or in the Inquiry as the case may be, that is to say he shall be permitted to visit the scene of the accident, examine the wreckage, question witnesses, receive copies of all pertinent documents (saving all just exceptions), have access to all relevant evidence and make submissions; and he may be accompanied by such technical and other advisers as may be considered necessary by the authorities of the country or territory by which he is appointed.

(3) The Inspector, in the case of the period of 28 days prescribed in regulation 11(3), and the Director, in the case of the period of 21 days prescribed in regulation 12(1), shall have power to extend the said period, and his power shall be exercisable notwithstanding that the period so prescribed has expired.

19(1) A person shall not obstruct or impede the Court or the Review Board or an Inspector or an Assessor or any person acting under the authority for the Director in the exercise of any powers or duties under these regulations.

Obstruction.

(2) A person shall not without reasonable excuse (proofwhereof shall lie on him) fail, after having had the expenses (if any) to which he is entitled tendered to him, to comply with any summons or requisition of the Court holding a Public Inquiry of a Review Board or an Inspector holding an investigation under these regulations.