



Advisory Circular

Civil Aviation Administration of China

Doc. No.: ARD 2024 No. 38

AC No.: AC-129-FS-001R2

Date of Issuance: June 4, 2024

Rules on the CCAR - 129 Operations Specifications for Foreign Air Carriers Engaged in Public Air Transport

(This is the translation only for reference)

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1. Statutory Basis and Purpose

This Advisory Circular (hereinafter referred to as AC) is developed pursuant to the *Regulations on the Operation Certifications for Foreign Air Carriers Engaged in Public Air Transport* (CCAR-129), to provide guidance for foreign air carriers engaged in public air transport (hereinafter referred to as “foreign air carriers”) applying for CCAR-129 Operations Specifications.

2. Applicability

This AC applies to foreign air carriers operating (or intending to operate) within the People’s Republic of China.

3. Abolition

The *Standard Format of CCAR-129 Operations Specifications* (AC-129-FS-2016-001-R1), issued on October 25, 2016 shall be abolished upon the effectiveness of this AC.

4. Descriptions

Upon the signing of an Air Service Agreement between the government of China and the government of a foreign country, the foreign air carrier(s) designated by its respective government may operate the agreed air services. To carry out such operations, the foreign air carrier(s) shall first obtain the route operating permit as stipulated in CCAR-287 and then receive the operation approval in accordance with CCAR-129. This process of approval for foreign air carriers is a common administrative practice adopted by CAAs worldwide. For scheduled operations of foreign air carriers, each CAAC Regional Administration (hereinafter referred to as RA) is responsible for the Operation Certifications under CCAR-129 and shall approve their operations by issuing the Operations Specifications. For charter operations, the Department of Flight Standards of CAAC adopts a simplified procedure under Article 129.9 of CCAR-129.

The Operation Certifications process and the issuance of Operations Specifications to the foreign air carrier conducted by CAAC under CCAR-129 are primarily for the confirmation, based on the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, that such operations have been approved by the CAA of the State of the Operator. This process ensures that the foreign air carrier can operate safely within China, rather than transferring the safety oversight responsibilities from the CAA of the State of the Operator.

When operating within China, in addition to obtaining the approvals specified in CCAR-129, foreign air carriers shall continuously comply with standards, laws and regulations pertaining to airports, security, emergency response, dangerous goods, among others. Therefore, obtaining the administrative approval under CCAR-129 only means that the foreign air carrier meets the certification requirements related to operational safety. During operations with Operations Specifications, foreign air carriers are obligated to maintain compliance with the aforementioned laws and regulations, as well as the validity of relevant agreements, qualifications and

certificates, and other documents.

5. References

Civil Aviation Law of the People's Republic of China;

Administrative Permission Law of the People's Republic of China;

Regulation on the Administration of Civil Airports;

Regulation on Transport Airport Operation Safety and Management (CCAR-140);

Regulation on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (CCAR-276);

Provisions on the Route Operating Permit for Foreign Air Carriers (CCAR-287);

Notice on the Second Revision of the Standard Format of CCAR-129 Operations Specifications (CAAC Flight Standard Policy 2022 No. 2);

Rules on Transport Airport Apron Operation and Management (AP-140-CA-2022-07);

Management Measures for the Removal of Damaged Aircraft at Transport Airports;

Convention on International Civil Aviation and its Annexes; and

Inspectors' Handbook on Foreign Air Carriers

6. Initial Application for Operations Specifications

Upon obtaining the route operating permit for scheduled flights issued by CAAC, the foreign air carrier (hereinafter referred to as “applicant”) may apply for CCAR-129 Operations Specifications. The initial application consists of the following four phases.

6.1 Application

6.1.1 Offline Consultation

The applicant may consult with relevant RA for the statutory requirements and necessary application materials. The responsible regions and contact details of each RA are available in the public information section of the Flight Standards Oversight Program (FSOP) 129 subsystem. Additionally, the RA shall be familiar with relevant details about the applicant, including fleet size and structure, base distribution, Safety Management Systems (SMS), and international operations experience.

If the applicant is the first foreign air carrier from its country applying for CCAR-129 Operations Specifications, the RA also needs to be familiar with the relevant details about the applicant's country, including its civil aviation regulations, forms of operation permission, competent departments in charge of flight standards, and points of contact.

Each RA shall inform the applicant of relevant policies and the principles of operation assessment and approval. After self-assessment, the applicant may submit a formal application in the FSOP system in accordance with the established process.

During this phase, the applicant should designate a responsible contact person and

provide contact information to receive relevant notifications. In order to safeguard the rights and fulfill the duties of the applicant, the designated contact person should be the legal representative of the applicant or a person being authorized in writing by the legal representative. This ensures that the contact person has the full mandate to register in the FSOP system and complete the online application information on behalf of the applicant.

6.1.2 Online Application

For the formal application for CCAR-129 Operations Specifications, the applicant shall submit the *Application for Issue of CCAR-129 Operations Specifications* (see Appendix A) in the FSOP system along with the following information or documents.

(1) Basic Information

The specific details required are:

- a. Company name: the name printed on the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the applicant's country, the full English name, and the standard abbreviation. If available, also include the official Chinese name.
- b. Official address: the address printed on the Air Operator Certificate and the English address.
- c. Country of the applicant: the full English name and the standard abbreviation.
- d. CAA of the country of the applicant: the full English name and the standard abbreviation; the contact information of its CAA's responsible departments or Primary Operation Inspector (POI).
- e. Number of the Air Operator Certificate issued by the CAA of the applicant.
- f. Geographic division: specify the geographic division in accordance with the principles outlined in Section 6.1.1.
- g. Carrier overview: a brief introduction to the carrier, including the initial issuance date of the Air Operator Certificate by its own country, the starting date of international operations and destination countries, and types of aircraft mainly operated.
- h. Contact person: the name, title, and contact information of the contact person.
- i. Application content: a summary of the aircraft types and quantities intended to be operated within China, as well as the primary destination airports and alternate airports to be used in its operation.
- j. Responsibility of signature by the applicant: the applicant or the authorized contact person shall sign their name and date. The signatory is responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.

(2) Operating Information

The applicant shall complete the draft of the standard format of CCAR-129 Operations Specifications in the FSOP system and submit detailed operating information along with the corresponding documents. The draft content serves as a detailed description of the application and shall be completed in sequence as per the standard format. For clauses involving uncommon operation scenarios, such as wet

lease, deviation and exemptions, operations at special airports, and the 7th freedom rights operations, applicants may decide whether to file such an application or not. If not filing an application for specific clauses, the applicant shall complete the section indicating the content concerned as not applicable; it shall not be left default or blank. All other clauses are mandatory and shall not be left default or blank. The basic content and document requirements for each clause of the operating information are as follows:

A0001 — Issuance and Applicability. This clause records the basic information about document issuance. The applicant shall provide the carrier's name, official address, radio call sign, and information on the Air Operator Certificate and Operations Specifications issued by the CAA of its own country.

Documents include:

- Air Operator Certificate and Operations Specifications;
- Company introduction (only for initial application);
- Declaration of information authenticity (only for initial application);
- Operations Manual (only for initial application);
- Weight and Balance Manual (only for initial application); and
- Crew Training Programme (only for initial application).

A0002 — Definitions and Abbreviations. This clause is used to record the definitions and abbreviations involved in operating information. The applicant shall review the default content of the clause, making additions and deletions as necessary to ensure that the content aligns with the applicant's actual operating information. The principles for filing out this section are as follows: (1) for definitions and abbreviations involved in the operating information but not covered in the default content of the clause, the applicant shall add and complete the information; (2) for definitions and abbreviations involved in the default content but not applicable to the operating information, the applicant shall declare their non-applicability.

Documents include:

- Corresponding chapters of the Operations Manual.

A0003 — Aircraft and Operations Authorizations. This clause is used to record the information of the approved aircraft. The applicant shall provide details regarding the nationality, registration, aircraft type, aircraft model, and serial number of the aircraft intended for operation within China, and any special operations categories involved (such as RVSM, CATII, RNPAPCH).

In case of wet-lease of aircraft, mark "*" in the aircraft registration number column and separately apply for clause A0028. For aircraft involved in the 7th freedom rights operations, mark "***" in the aircraft registration number column and separately apply for clause E0090.

Documents include:

- Operations Specifications issued by the CAA of the applicant's country (submit only the approval pages relevant to the aircraft information and operation categories);

- Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Airworthiness, and Radio Station License;
- Certification documents for airborne equipment, including at least ACAS 7.1 or above versions, GPS, CVR, and FDR information;
- Aircraft Maintenance Programme approval page (only for adding new aircraft types);
- Minimum Equipment List approval page (only for adding new aircraft types);
- Proof of aircraft manufacture date; and
- Aircraft insurance documents.

A0005 — Exemptions and Deviations. This clause is used to record information regarding exemptions and deviations applicable only to situations related to the installation of instruments and equipment on aircraft. The applicant shall provide details of the exemptions and deviations, including the content and time. If the operating information does not involve any exemptions and deviations, the applicant shall declare their non-applicability.

The prerequisite for application is that relevant exemptions and deviations have already been approved by the CAA of the applicant's country and recorded in accordance with ICAO requirements. However, in consideration of flight safety and operation order, even if certain exemptions and deviations have been approved by the CAA of the applicant's country, CAAC may still reach conclusions not to approve them or impose additional operation restrictions during the review of this clause, in accordance with relevant ICAO SARPs.

Documents include:

- Proof of approved deviations, if not in English, an English translation confirmed by the CAA of the applicant's country shall be provided.

A0006 — Contact Information. This clause is used to record contact information of personnel responsible for operation and oversight. The applicant shall provide details of authorized signatories, managers or representatives from its regular airports, and responsible personnel from the CAA of the applicant's country for operation and maintenance certification and surveillance. Information required includes names, titles, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other relevant contact details. To ensure timely emergency contact, the mobile phone numbers of the managers or representatives of its scheduled airports shall be provided.

Documents include:

- Proof that the relevant personnel have been duly authorized by the applicant, documented in writing.

A0008 — Operational Control, Weather and Airport Data. This clause is used to record critical procedures applicable during operation at airports within China. The applicant shall provide information on relevant operational control, meteorological information, and airport data management procedures. If agents are involved, the information shall also be provided.

Documents include:

- Relevant chapters of Operations Manual or equivalent documents; and
- Agent contracts (if applicable).

A0023 — Procedures for Operation During Ground Icing Conditions. This clause is used to record de-icing and anti-icing procedures applicable during operation at airports within China. The applicant shall provide details of the de-icing and anti-icing procedure index. If the applicant does not have relevant procedures, they shall declare that operations will not be conducted at airports with icing conditions.

Documents include:

- Relevant chapters of Operations Manual or certification documents of corresponding procedures;
- Declaration of no de-icing and anti-icing procedures (submitted when no procedures are available).

A0028 — Aircraft Wet Lease Arrangements. This clause is used to record information about the approved wet-leased aircraft. The applicant shall provide details including wet-leased aircraft registration information, lessor's name and their Air Operator Certificate information, CAA information, and the validity period of the wet-lease contract.

Documents include:

- Lessor's Air Operator Certificate and wet-lease clauses from their Operations Specifications;
- Lessor's CCAR Parts 121/135/129 Operations Specifications (the lessor shall first remove the wet-leased aircraft from their Operations Specifications);
- Wet-lease contract (including aircraft registration information); and
- Wet-lease terms from the lessee's Operations Specifications or equivalent documents.

C0070 — Airports Authorized for Operations. This clause is used to record operating information at airports within China. The applicant shall provide details including the airport names and ICAO three-letter codes where operations within China are involved, categorizing them as regular, alternate, or refueling airports, and specifying the aircraft types and models used. If special airports are involved, the applicant shall also provide the codes, names, and aircraft types and models used at the special airports. Details of special airports can be found in the List of special airports (Domestic and International) (IB-FS-OPC-001) at www.caac.gov.cn.

When applying, the applicant shall ensure that all relevant responsibilities have been fulfilled, agreements have been signed regarding support for operations, and that the emergency response and fire-fighting capabilities of the airport meet performance requirements.

Documents include:

- Approved areas of operation or airports within the Operations Specifications;
- Route operating permit

- A description or declaration document detailing the implementation of runway performance analysis and its compliance at the respective airports, maintenance release at the respective airports, and the delivery of aeronautical services information to the crew;
- Approval from the CAA of the applicant's country for the maintenance organization (applicable to applicants in contract with maintenance organizations for line maintenance release);
- Declaration of compliance with airport emergency response and fire-fighting capabilities; and
- Crew training records for special airports (applicable only to special airports).

D0080 — Aircraft Maintenance: This clause is used to record maintenance management information for aircraft operating within China. The applicant shall provide details of the Maintenance Control Manual, Aircraft Model Maintenance Programme, and the edition of the Minimum Equipment List. If the line maintenance is performed by a contracted maintenance organizations at airports within China, the applicant shall provide the name of the maintenance organization, contact information, validity period of the maintenance contract, and details of the airports and aircraft models approved for maintenance by the maintenance organization.

If the documents are not in English, the applicant should submit the original cover and approval page, with an English translation. Apart from the Minimum Equipment List, other documents can be separately compiled as summaries based on the original version, listing the content related to operations within China. These summary documents shall clearly correspond to the chapters of the original documents and be confirmed by the CAA of the applicant's country.

Documents include:

- Maintenance Control Manual and its approval documents (applicable only for initial applications; for amendment to the Operations Specifications, only the approval page needs to be submitted);
- Aircraft Maintenance Programme and its approval documents (only need to be submitted once per aircraft model; for additions of the same aircraft model in the Operation Specifications, only the approval page needs to be submitted);
- Minimum Equipment List and its approval documents (only need to be submitted once every aircraft model; for additions of the same aircraft model in the Operations Specifications, only the approval page needs to be submitted);
- Line maintenance contract (if applicable); and
- Approval from the CAA of the applicant's country for the maintenance organization (applicable to applicants in contract with maintenance organizations for line maintenance release).

E0090 — The 7th Freedom Rights Operations. This clause is used to record basic information regarding the 7th freedom rights operations. The applicant shall provide details of the sub-base name, airport name, registration and model information of aircraft dedicated to the 7th freedom rights operations, and information about the sub-base's operation and maintenance organization.

Documents include:

- Approval documents for the sub-base for operation;
- Relevant provisions of the Operations Manual of the sub-base for operation, including crew training, scheduling, maintenance release;
- Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Airworthiness, and Radio Station License dedicated to the 7th freedom rights operation; and
- Approval from the CAA of the applicant's country for the maintenance arrangements at the sub-base for operation.

6.2 Acceptance

Upon receiving the application form and materials submitted by the applicant, the RA will provide feedback on the acceptance status within five working days. If the initial review finds the materials complete and the format proper, the RA can proceed with the acceptance immediately. If the initial review identifies deficiencies in the types or formats of the materials, the RA will send a correction notice to the responsible contact person and proceed with acceptance after the applicant has corrected or supplemented the materials as required.

6.3 Review and Evaluation

After the application is accepted, the RA will form a team for review and evaluation according to the requirements. The team members shall include inspectors designated as the applicant's Principal Operation Inspector (POI) and Principal Maintenance Inspector (PMI) and will conduct a document review of the application materials. For applications involving the 7th freedom rights operations and high-altitude airport operations, on-site evaluation may be conducted as necessary. The time limit for document review is 20 working days. The time required for organizing expert reviews and conducting on-site evaluation is not included in the processing time limit. The time taken for the applicant to provide additional information or complete corrections as requested by the team is also not included in the processing time limit.

6.4 Authorization

Upon completion of the document review, the POI and PMI will respectively sign on the Operations Specifications within their areas of functions. After both POI and PMI have jointly signed the document, the Operations Specifications will be officially issued. The applicant shall promptly login to the FSOP system to verify the issued content. After reviewing and confirming the content without objections, the applicant should sign and upload the document, completing the acceptance phase online. The Operations Specifications will take effect once accepted by the applicant.

7. Amendment to Operations Specifications

7.1 Amendment Initiated by the Operator

The operator refers to a foreign air carrier holding CCAR-129 Operations Specifications. The operator can submit the Application for CCAR-129 Operations Specifications and the relevant information or documents regarding the amendment through the FSOP system. The supporting documents for the amendment can refer to the corresponding clauses of operating information in Section 6.1.2.

Upon receiving the amendment application from the operator, the RA will conduct an initial review of the completeness of the materials within five working days and make an acceptance decision. If the initial review identifies deficiencies in the materials, a correction notice will be issued. If the materials have been corrected or if no correction notice has been issued within five working days from the date of application submission, the RA will accept the application and draw a conclusion after the review within 20 working days, completing the amendment to the Operations Specifications. The time required for organizing expert reviews, conducting on-site evaluation, waiting for the correction of application materials and completing corrections is not included in the processing time limit.

For basic information changes that do not expand the approval scope of the Operations Specifications, such as reducing the number of airports, aircraft, or changing contact information within China, the change can be made directly upon acceptance.

7.2 Amendment Determined by the Authority

7.2.1 Applicability

The RA has the unilateral authority to directly amend the CCAR-129 Operations Specifications under the following circumstances:

- a. Occurrence of those described in CCAR-129 Article 129.27(d) or (e);
- b. Occurrence of those described in CCAR-129 Article 129.31(d); or
- c. The score of operation assessment within China falls below the threshold set by CAAC.

Note: The threshold is separately specified by CAAC in AC-129-FS-003.

7.2.2 Amendment Process

If the RA decides to implement changes to the Operations Specifications, it will notify the responsible contact person in writing. The operator may submit written comments on the proposed amendment within 7 working days from the date the responsible contact person receives the notification. The RA will make a decision on the amendment to the Operations Specifications within 5 working days after considering the comments of the holder of the Operations Specifications.

8. Application for Non-scheduled Flights

Foreign air carriers engaged in non-scheduled public air transport may apply for special approvals by CAAC with simplified procedures, under the following circumstances, without applying for the Operations Specifications.

8.1 Charter Operations Exemption

Charter operations exemptions include exemptions for non-Operations Specifications holders and Operations Specifications holders. Non-Operations Specifications holders refer to foreign air carriers that do not hold valid CCAR-129 Operations Specifications.

8.1.1 Exemption for Non-Operations Specifications Holders

Non-Operations Specifications holders can apply for charter operations exemptions from CAAC through the FSOP system. Exempted flights shall comply with quantity limitations for operations, with no more than 10 flights operated within any consecutive 12 calendar months within China. Applicants shall provide the Air Operator Certificate and Operations Specifications issued by the CAA of the applicant's country, as well as the Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Airworthiness, and Radio Station License.

8.1.2 Exemption for Operations Specifications Holders

Operations Specifications holders intending to conduct charter operations to destinations outside the approved scope within China can apply for commercial transport exemptions from CAAC through the FSOP system. Exempted flights shall adhere to quantity limitations for operations, with no more than 10 flights operated within any consecutive 12 calendar months within China.

If the annual charter operations of an Operations Specifications holder exceed 10 flights, they shall apply for an amendment to add corresponding destinations to their Operations Specifications. In such cases, the route operating permit will include approval for **non-scheduled flights** plans covering those destinations. After the amendment is completed, there will be no limit on the total number of charter flights operated by the Operations Specifications holder, but they are generally not permitted to operate continuously for more than 3 months and shall not exceed a total of 4 months within one year.

8.2 Special Government Transport Missions

Specific flights arranged by the government for particular transport missions require the following documents:

- (1) Proof documents issued by relevant government authorities (typically from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy in China, or Civil Aviation Authority);
- (2) Air Operator Certificate and Operations Specifications issued by the CAA of the carrier's country under the equivalences of CCAR-121 or CCAR-135; and
- (3) Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Airworthiness, and Radio Station License.

Appendix A: Application for Issue of CCAR-129 Operations Specifications

中国民用航空局

CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA

CCAR-129 部运行规范申请书

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CCAR-129 OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Applicant

Carrier Name: _____

Official Translation (optional): _____

ICAO Code: _____ IATA Code: _____

Official Address: _____

2. Air Operator Certificate and Operations Specifications

AOC Number: _____ Issuance State: _____

CAA Name: _____ Geographic Division: _____

CAA Contact Number: _____ CAA E-mail: _____

3. Carrier Overview

Initial Issuance Date of AOC: _____

Starting Date of International Operation: _____

Destination Countries of Initial International Operation: _____

Types of Aircraft Mainly Operated

4. Contact Person

Name: _____ Title: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

5. Application Content

Aircraft Types and Quantities: _____

To be Operated within China

Scheduled Airport: _____ Alternate Airport: _____

Estimated Frequency: _____

6 Applicant Responsibility Signature

Name: _____ Date: _____

Note: The application form provided is for reference only. Detailed information shall be filed out by the applicant in the FSOP system.