



## **Application and Authorisation Procedures for scheduled air services to and from Switzerland**

The provisions concerning the application and authorisation procedures for foreign carriers wishing to operate scheduled air services to and from Switzerland are set forth in the Swiss Federal Aviation Law (SR 748.0) and the Swiss Federal Aviation Ordinance (SR 748.01).

According to these provisions, any air carrier operating scheduled services to/from Switzerland must be the holder of the following two authorisations issued by the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA):

- 1) Operating Permit for the transport of passengers or cargo/mail;
- 2) Route Licence for each route over which scheduled air services are being held out and performed.

### **1. Operating Permit**

#### **1.1. Conditions**

The Operating Permit for commercial services performed by aircraft for the public transport of passengers or cargo/mail to and from Switzerland is granted to a foreign air carrier provided that it is duly authorised by the competent authorities of its country of origin to operate international air services.

A copy of the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) or a corresponding permit issued by your national aeronautical authorities must be provided to FOCA. Furthermore, the air carrier has to demonstrate evidence that it is holding a TCO authorisation or has filed a TCO application with EASA, and that there is sufficient insurance cover.

Foreign air carriers which are banned from services by a member state of the European Union (EU) or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) will not be granted an Operating Permit by FOCA.

#### **1.2. Request**

The request for an Operating Permit must be submitted on form FOCA 49.07 (Request for an Operating Permit).

#### **1.3. Validity**

The Operating Permit is initially valid for one year. It can be renewed thereafter for a period of five years.

#### **1.4. Renewal**

The Operating Permit can be renewed upon request. The request must be submitted at least 30 days before the expiry date on form FOCA 49.07 (Request for an Operating Permit).

## **2. Route Licence**

### **2.1. Conditions**

The Route Licence for the transport of passengers or cargo/mail on scheduled air services to and from Switzerland is granted to a foreign air carrier according to the conditions agreed upon in the bilateral Air Services Agreement.

### **2.2. Request**

Whenever an air carrier plans to hold out and perform a new service, a request for the issuance of a Route Licence has to be submitted to FOCA at least 30 days before the proposed date of commencement for its operation.

Such requests have to be made on the official application forms FOCA 49.04 (Request for the issuance of a Route Licence), FOCA 49.01 (Schedule filing), FOCA 49.02 (Tariff filing) and FOCA 49.06 (Aircraft list).

### **2.3. Validity**

The Route Licence is basically granted for an unlimited period. Its validity may be restricted namely in cases where routes are not covered by the bilateral Air Services Agreement or in case of scarce capacity.

### **2.4. Modifications, Discontinuation**

If a route or all routes included in the Route Licence are to be modified or discontinued, the air carrier shall inform FOCA by written about the modification or discontinuation of such service(s).

## **3. Schedule**

### **3.1. Filings**

The holder of a Route Licence has to fix schedules for its regular air services.

- a) Schedules for flights to and from Switzerland have to be filed with FOCA.
- b) Schedules shall be submitted only with slots granted by the Slot Coordination Switzerland, where required.
- c) Filings must be made by E-mail, postal mail or fax on form FOCA 49.01 (Schedule filing).
- d) Schedules are to be filed at least 30 days before they become effective.

### **3.2. Action by FOCA**

The FOCA will no more formally approve schedules filed with them, except if required by the air carrier.

### **3.3. Intervention by FOCA**

FOCA will only intervene in cases where:

- Route, operational or traffic rights are not covered by the Air Services Agreement or the Route Licence;
- flights are proposed to be operated during restricted hours (e.g. night ban);
- flights are planned to be operated with Chapter II aircraft.

### **3.4. Publication**

All schedules for regular services to/from Switzerland have to be made accessible to the public.

### **3.5. Modifications, Cancellations**

Any schedule or operational change such as modifications of departure and arrival times, cancellations of scheduled flights or operation of extra section flights have to be notified to FOCA.

Should you have any questions with regard to the aforementioned procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA)  
LEWI / Division Aviation Policy and Strategy  
CH-3003 Berne  
Switzerland

E-mail: [trafficrights@bazl.admin.ch](mailto:trafficrights@bazl.admin.ch)  
Fax: +41 58 465 53 66  
Phone: +41 58 465 42 98 or  
+41 58 465 91 25