



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGE



Extended use of CASA Basics exams and Schedule of Experience (SOE) to qualify for a Part 66 aircraft engineer licence

Civil Aviation Safety Amendment (Part 66 Transition Extension) Regulations 2020
Part 66 Manual of Standards Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 1)

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Introduction

The current COVID-19 travel and social distancing restrictions affect the practical aspects of training and an individual's ability to sit exams. Industry has requested a further extension for use of the CASA Basics/SOE and CASA agrees that an extension is reasonable under the circumstances. CASA intends to extend use of the CASA Basics/SOE to qualify for a Part 66 licence for a further 12-month period.

Since the introduction of Part 66 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR) in June 2011, CASA has allowed, via transitional provisions in the CASR, use of the CASA Basics exams and a Schedule of Experience (SOE)—**CASA Basics/SOE**—the previous training scheme under regulation 31 of the *Civil Aviation Regulations 1988* (CAR), as an alternative pathway to a Part 66 licence.

The intent of this policy was to enable individuals who had already started down the CASA Basics/SOE pathway the opportunity to finish their training and examinations under the scheme and to be granted a Part 66 licence. This transitional arrangement initially was available for four years (June 2011 to June 2015). In 2015, a decision was made by the previous CEO and Director of Aviation Safety (DAS) to grant a further extension to 3 July 2020.

Consequential to the decision to extend use of the CASA Basics/SOE for an additional 12 months to 30 June 2021, CASA will amend specific provisions in the Part 66 Manual of Standards (MOS) that give effect to use of CASA Basics/SOE, to align with the new date in the regulation.

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Reference material

Acronyms

The acronyms and abbreviations used in this AC are listed in the table below.

Acronym	Description
CAR	<i>Civil Aviation Regulations 1988</i>
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CASR	<i>Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DAS	Director of Aviation Safety
MOS	Manual of Standards
RIS	Regulatory Impact Statement
SOE	Schedule of experience

References

Regulations

Regulations are available on the Federal Register of Legislation website <https://www.legislation.gov.au/>

Document	Title
Part 66 of CASR	Continuing airworthiness—aircraft engineer licences and ratings
Subpart 202.CG of CASR	Transitional provisions for Part 66 (Continuing airworthiness—aircraft engineer licences and ratings)
Part 66 MOS	Part 66 Manual of Standards
Regulation 31 of CAR (repealed)	Aircraft maintenance engineer licences

Purpose and scope of the proposed amendments

CASA recently announced a range of measures being put in place to help sectors of the Australian aviation industry during the current changing and unprecedented COVID-19 environment.

One of these industry relief measures is an extension for use of the CASA Basics/SOE scheme as an alternative training pathway to gain a Part 66 licence. This option has been extended for a further 12-month period until 30 June 2021.

Objective of proposed amendment

Amendment to Part 66 Transitional Regulation

Currently, transitional arrangements put in place under regulation 202.345 of CASR, that allow CASA to grant a category B1 or B2 Part 66 licence to a person, if the person meets the requirements prescribed by the Part 66 MOS for the purpose of this regulation, will cease with the repeal of the regulation on 3 July 2020.

The requirements prescribed by the Part 66 MOS for the purpose of regulation 202.345, allow a person to meet the training (theory and practical) and examination requirements of Part 66, by using CASA Basics/SOE as an alternative training pathway to qualification for grant of a licence.

CASA will extend the repeal date of regulation 202.345 from 3 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, to enable persons using the CASA Basics/SOE pathway, a further 12-month extension to qualify for a Part 66 licence.

In addition, CASA will also improve the cessation arrangements by including provisions under regulation 202.345, to allow CASA to continue to assess applications for a licence made on or before the new 30 June 2021 cessation date, after that date.

Note: Refer to draft Civil Aviation Safety Amendment (Part 66 Transition Extension) Regulation 2020.

Amendment to Part 66 Manual of Standards

Consequential to the decision to extend use of the CASA Basics/SOE for an additional 12 months to 30 June 2021, specific provisions in the Part 66 MOS that give effect to CASR 202.345 will be amended to align with the new date.

Note: Refer to draft Part 66 Manual of Standards Amendment instrument 2020 (No.1).

Previous consultations

This proposal has been communicated by CASA to industry on the CASA website and general email subscriber lists. CASA is now undertaking additional consultation with the broader aviation community on the draft legislation amendments. The proposal has received widespread support.

Given the unique circumstances created by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the timeframe and general support for this proposal, the normal consultation times have been reduced to expedite putting the relief measures in place.

Impact on industry

CASA expects there will be no negative impacts on industry as a result of these proposed legislative changes, given this relief measure is providing a 12-month extension to individuals to continue to use the CASA Basics/SOE training pathway to qualify for a Part 66 licence.

Regulation impact statement

These proposed changes would have only machinery impacts and are beneficial for industry. CASA anticipates that no further analysis in the form of a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) will be required. If a RIS is required, then it will be published accordingly.

Closing date for comment

CASA will consider all comments received as part of this consultation process. Comments on the draft *Civil Aviation Safety Amendment (Part 66 Transition Extension) Regulation 2020* and draft *Part 66 Manual of Standards Amendment instrument 2020 (No. 1)* should be submitted through the online response form by close of business 13 May 2020.