



Aviation Group Client Update

Date: April 25, 2012
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EASA INSTITUTES NEW SET OF UNIFORM FLIGHT CREW LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Earlier this month, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) instituted a new set of [uniform flightcrew licensing requirements](#), which overhaul pilot training and issuance of European licenses, ratings, and certificates. Under the regulations, a pilot must hold a license issued by the European Union (EU) to operate an aircraft that is registered in the EU or in a state outside the EU, if the operator resides or is established in the EU.

In general, a pilot must hold a license that is issued or validated by the state of registry of the aircraft. EASA went one step further and required operators of aircraft registered in another country, but who resides in an EU Member State, to have a European License. Although this change is significant, most pilots holding licenses issued by the FAA should not feel the impact of the new regulations. Article 33 of the Chicago Convention provides that certificates of airworthiness, certificates of competency, and licenses issued or validated by the state of registry, shall be recognized as valid by other states. To be recognized, the certificates and licenses must be issued according to minimum standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and both states must be ICAO members.

For example, a pilot who resides in the U.S., holds a valid FAA pilot certificate/medical, and operates an aircraft based and registered in the U.S. can operate in Europe without obtaining a new license from the EU or have the existing FAA license validated. Both the U.S. and EU Member States are ICAO contracting states and meet minimum licensing standards. However, a pilot holding an FAA license who is flying an aircraft regulated by EASA that is registered in the EU or in a state outside the EU (but whose operator resides or is established in the EU) could be required to obtain an EU license or validation from an EU Member State.

If you have any questions regarding the new flightcrew licensing requirements or whether the requirements affect your license, please contact our office.

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