

Guidance

on the obligation to check COVID-19 certificates in connection with international flights

These guidance notes are based on a new regulation on the obligation to check COVID-19 certificates in connection with international flights which enters into force as of 5 June 2021 at 00.00h UTC and shall remain in force until 31 December 2021 at 23.59h UTC.

Scope

The regulation applies to all aircraft operators and passengers on international flights to Icelandic territory, with the exception of aircraft overflying Icelandic territory, all cargo transport flights, aircraft in distress and aircraft on transit flights which do not disembark passengers.

Obligations of aircraft operators

All aircraft operators are obliged to check, before passengers board an aircraft, whether their passengers:

- have fulfilled the obligation to [pre-register](#) and
- have the required certificate or attestation of:
 - [vaccination against COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\)](#), or
 - previous COVID-19 infection [\(SARS-CoV-2\)](#) and are no longer infected, or
 - [a negative outcome from a COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\) test \(negative PCR-test\)](#),

provided that such an obligation is in force on the basis of the Act on Health Security and Communicable Diseases, cf. [website of the Directorate of Health](#).

See supporting documents/checklists for information that must be on certificates:

[I. Checklist for vaccination certificate against COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\).](#)

[II. Checklist for certificate of previous COVID-19 infection \(SARS-CoV-2\) and are no longer infected.](#)

Checking of certificate

Aircraft operator's obligation to check whether a passenger has the above mentioned certificate or attestation is limited to:

- verifying the passenger's name on the certificate or attestation, and
- verifying the period of validity and date of issue (if applicable), and
- examining whether the certificate or attestation has the appearance of being a certificate or attestation in accordance with instructions issued by the health authorities.

Denied carriage of passenger

If a passenger is unable to present a certificate or attestation as required above, that passenger must be denied carriage by the aircraft operator. The obligation to deny passengers carriage does not apply to Icelandic citizens.

A denial of carriage does not constitute denied boarding on the basis of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004, cf. the Regulation on compensation and assistance to air passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation, delay or pushing forward of flights or due to lost luggage or damage to it, No 1048/2012.

Administrative fines

The Icelandic Transport Authority may adopt a decision to impose an administrative fine against an individual or legal entity as follows:

- a. For infraction against the obligation to check whether a passenger is carrying the requisite certificate or attestation: an administrative fine of ISK 200,000 for each infraction per each passenger.
- b. For infraction against the obligation to deny carriage to a passenger: an administrative fine of ISK 200,000 for each infraction per each passenger.

A decision to impose an administrative fine shall be communicated in a verifiable manner to the person or entity against whom the fine is imposed.

A fine may be imposed against a legal entity for infraction of the above regardless whether fault can be proven by a specific representative of the legal entity, its personnel or other individuals/entities in its service.

Procedure and the right to appeal

A decision to impose an administrative fine may be appealed to the Minister in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Other procedure is according to of the [Aviation Act No 60/1998 with subsequent amendments](#) and the [regulation on the obligation to check COVID-19 certificates in connection with international flights](#).