



The Aero Club of South Africa

Preserving Free Flight

Aero Club Communique # 17 of 2026

Good day to all our Aero Club members, and to all of the general and recreational aviation community.

We have news about our shared interests.

12-Year Engine Rule

I quote from Communique 16:

“These amendments are part of the 36th Amendment to the S A Civil Aviation Regulations which was finally sent to the minister on the 10th of June 2026.

In terms of legislation, all proposed legislative amendments have to be scrutinised by the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (OCLA) to determine if proposed legislation agrees with the South African Constitution.”

Please see below the latest media release from the AIC 18.19 Task Team, specifically the information on the 2nd page. It appears that there is some movement in getting the 33rd and 36th Amendments to the Civil Aviation Regulations signed by the minister.

We thank CAASA for leading the AIC 18.19 Task Team initiative to acquire more information and to inform general aviation on this matter.

As soon as any further information is received, we will communicate it to you.



MEDIA RELEASE NO. 21

DATE: 06 AUGUST 2026

Issued by the AIC 18.19 Task Team under the collective auspices of the Commercial Aviation Association of South Africa (CAASA), the Aeroclub of South Africa, the Aviation Watch Action Committee, the Aviation Action Group and Concerned Aircraft Owners, Pilots, Engineers and Operators.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF PROMUGATION OF THE 36TH AMMENDMENT OF THE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATION CONTAINING PARTS 91 & 43 TO ENABLE APPENDIX 3

The Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa (CAASA) met with the Department of Transport (DoT) yesterday to discuss matters raised in CAASA's letter to the Honourable Minister Barbara Creecy dated 19 June 2026.

The meeting was hosted by the Acting Director-General of Transport, Mr Mathabatha Mokonyama, together with the Acting Deputy Director-General for Civil Aviation, Ms Elizabeth Mpye.

During previous engagements, the Director of Civil Aviation advised CAASA that clarification had been sought from the State Law Advisers regarding an additional process that had been introduced during the promulgation of regulations.

While the contents of that correspondence could not appropriately be shared, the DCA conveyed the general position arising from those engagements. CAASA fully supports the Director of Civil Aviation in her efforts to obtain legal clarity and fast track this promulgation due to the significance of the economic impact on industry, particularly given the extended delays in the promulgation process and their impact on aviation safety and industry operations.

The meeting included conveyance of the heightened need for improved communication between the Department of Transport, especially the aviation section, and industry stakeholders. The operational and economic implications of prolonged delays were also conveyed, and agreement was reached to improve communication and stakeholder engagement going forward. This is good for the industry and industry will remain vigilant and maintain a robust stance on such issues where the DOT and the Regulator may not enable the industry as effectively as they should.

The Acting Director-General advised that further enquiries would be undertaken to determine the causes of the delays and indicated that, where appropriate, a formal acknowledgement would be provided via a response letter and if necessary, an apology may be forthcoming.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to enabling a sustainable and compliant aviation sector within the framework of South African legislation and the Civil Aviation Regulations.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the Department's commitment to expedite the outstanding regulatory amendments. This includes the 33rd Amendment, submitted to the Department on 20 February 2026 in accordance with CARCom records, and the 36th Amendment, submitted on 10 June 2026.

The Department indicated that both amendments will be prioritised for promulgation using the established process followed for previous amendments, without requiring the extended State Law Adviser review process.

THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT THIS PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

We await formal written confirmation of the commitments made during the meeting. The Acting Director-General advised that the Department intends to complete the remaining promulgation process and submit the amendments to the Honourable Minister for signature within this timeframe.

The meeting was formally recorded by the DOT, and CAASA awaits the official transcript and minutes. In the interim, industry participants are encouraged to continue preparing for implementation of the amendments in consultation with their Approved Maintenance Organisations (AMOs), in accordance with previous guidance.

We remain optimistic that the Department of Transport, the South African Civil Aviation Authority and the relevant regulatory structures will be prepared to implement the amendments once promulgated, consistent with the assurances provided through the CARCom process.

Industry appreciates the constructive engagement that has taken place over recent months and remains committed to working collaboratively with government and industry stakeholders to advance practical, safe and internationally aligned regulatory solutions. This includes continuing discussions on expanding operational flexibility for Part 91 aircraft, including owner training, in line with recognised international best practice.

We as the consortium on the letterhead, look forward to the return of affected Part 91 aircraft to normal operations once the amendments have been promulgated. Pilots and operators are encouraged to ensure that appropriate proficiency and currency training is completed before resuming flying activities following the extended period during which many aircraft have remained grounded.

While CAASA spearheaded this engagement which was part of other CAASA specific matters, it remains a combined effort and continued thanks to the leaders of these organisations in this consortium and we reaffirm unity in industry with all effective organisations which remains critical going forward.

This most probably will be the penultimate media statement in an effort to manage communication expectations.

For further information or media enquiries or interviews, please contact:

- Kevin Storie, CEO of CAASA, kev@caasa.co.za
- Walter Doubell, Chairman AeCSA, walter@aeroclub.org.za
- Morné Kleinhans AWAC, morne@awac.org.za

Athol Franz

The aviation world is saddened by the passing of Athol Franz. Athol had a major impact on the Aero Club through African Pilot and his involvement in Aero Club activities. There is no need to repeat what has been said about the value of Athol's input and efforts and what it meant for aviation and especially general aviation in South Africa. Yet, I would be remiss not to honour his memory. I do this with an anecdote about a personal experience.

I had met Athol years before and had seen him regularly at events but had not spent much time in his company. At an air show in Stellenbosch a few years ago, I was seated with Athol at a hangar party. He asked me about my background. When I mentioned that I had been in the photographic club at school his eyes lit up and he immediately went to fetch a bottle of Chardonnay. The next two hours were taken up by a discussion on the sunny-16 rule, ASA settings, stop baths, fixers, judging the light without a light meter and the old manual cameras. Athol was one of the few who knew all about a 4x5 camera. He was in his element and obviously very knowledgeable about all aspects of photography. The brief time discussing the old ways of photography gave me an insight into Athol as a different person to the one we saw at events, as someone who was willing to share his passion and spend time with others just discussing a common interest.

To Christine, Mark, Ricky and Amy, words cannot do anything for your loss.

Aviation in South Africa will remember Athol.

SACAA SKYwatch magazine

The CAA publishes a quarterly magazine with general aviation information about a wide range of topics. We at the Aero Club have been part of SKYwatch since its inception. The newsletter can be accessed on the SACAA website by accessing the link below. The latest and previous editions are also available. You can also subscribe to SKYwatch on the SACAA website. Click on Quick Find, then SKYwatch, then Subscribe

<https://www.caa.co.za/information-for-the-public/skywatch-magazine/>

SACAA General Aviation Accident Reduction Seminar (GAARS) on 27 August 2026

The SACAA is hosting a safety seminar. It will be virtual from 18:00 to 20:00, so it is easy to attend. Please try to be there. See the information below

Here is a link to the seminar [GAARS Seminar](#)

A promotional banner for the GAARS Sixth General Aviation Accident Reduction Seminar. The banner features a blue and white biplane flying over a tropical beach with palm trees and turquoise water. On the left, the SACAA logo is displayed with the tagline 'Keeping you safe in the sky'. To the right of the logo, the text 'GAARS Sixth General Aviation Accident Reduction Seminar' is written. Below this, the text 'Getting ready for summer' is followed by a calendar icon and the date '27 August 2026', a clock icon and the time '18:00 – 20:00', and a Microsoft Teams icon. A green button with the text 'CLICK HERE TO RECEIVE ENTRANCE TO THE VIRTUAL EVENT' is positioned to the right of the time. At the bottom, the text 'Enquiries: Nishan Singh | Singhs@caa.co.za' is displayed.

CAASA Newsletter

The latest CAASA newsletter, the July 2026 edition, has been circulated.

There is valuable information about aviation and about what is happening in aviation in South Africa.

The CAASA newsletter can be accessed via the link below at:

<https://share.google/wCUOQ2KiUkjA42XcQ>

Other Aero Club information

The Gyroplane association is hosting an event on the 15th of August 2026 at Kitty Hawk. It promises to be a great day.

The 2026 Aero Club membership renewal commenced on the 1st of December.

Please visit the Aero Club website renewal portal at

<https://aeroclub.org.za/membership/>

to renew or to register as a new member.

We list below the information on our Aero Assist system whereby you can easily renew your Authority to Fly.

Also, please see below the contact numbers for the SACAA confidential hazard reporting system and the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre.

Have a good week, be safe.

Regards,

Walter Doubell,

Chairman, Aero club of SA,

6 August 2026

walter@aeroclub.org.za

0798306452

The Aero Club Membership Support Initiative

ATFs and Licences

The Aero Club has created a Member Support Initiative to assist active Aero Club members in their Recreational Licence & ATF application submissions to the CAA at a cost of R 300 per submission, discounts for multiple submissions and referrals.



AeroAssist

<https://www.aeroassist.org.za/>

AeroAssist is a web based system that can be used by members of Aero Club to facilitate Authority to Fly applications with CAA.



The functionality of the system allows for the upload of all required documentation that must be submitted with the application. Aircraft details and applicable documentation will be saved to a master document set for the aircraft and will be available for subsequent applications; making it easier for the user the next time an application is submitted.

Applicants are kept up to date with regards to application progress via their preferred communication method - sms or e-mail. When the Authority to Fly has been issued by CAA, it will be stored in the system and automatically e-mailed to the applicant. As an additional service, we also send a reminder at the appropriate time when an Authority to Fly is due.

For more information contact The Aero Club of South Africa
(011) 082 1100 or salome@aeroclub.org.za

Sections of The Aero Club of South Africa



Safety Contact Information

The SACAA Confidential Aviation Hazard Reporting System (CAHRS) reporting link:

<https://www.caa.co.za/information-for-the-public/reporting/#cahrs>

ARCC

Aeronautical Rescue
Coordination Centre

SEARCH AND RESCUE

 +27 63 505 4164 or

 +27 63 505 5485

 Report **ANY** Aircraft Accident
Immediately to the ARCC
This includes Paragliders



ARCC
SASAR

