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This Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is issued for the information, guidance and compliance of all stakeholders.

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Director General

COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER LICENCE CATEGORIES B1 AND B2, AND TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF CATEGORY A, C, A&C, X AND R LICENCES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is to notify Approved Maintenance Organisations (AMOs), Approved Training Organisations (ATOs) conducting aircraft maintenance engineer training, and holders of, or applicants for the issue or renewal of, an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Licence (AMEL) issued by the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (the Authority) of:
 - (a) the date on which the Authority will begin issuing AMELs in categories B1 and B2, with the associated type ratings, in accordance with the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations, 2017, as amended; and
 - (b) the procedure, safeguards and phased timeline under which holders of existing Category A, C, A&C, X and R licences are to convert to the corresponding B1 or B2 category before the statutory deadline of 31 March 2027.
- 1.2 This Circular is issued pursuant to regulation 125A of the Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations, 2017, as amended, which provides that an applicant for an AMEL issued under the Regulations may be issued with a new AMEL, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed therein. This Circular is also to be read together with regulation 5(11) of the Regulations, which fixes 31 March 2027 as the date beyond which Category A, C, A&C, X and R licences shall not be renewed. Every reference in this Circular to the "statutory deadline" is a reference to that date and that provision.
- 1.3 This Circular gives effect to, and does not amend, replace or override, the Regulations. It is to be read together with Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036 (Re-issue of AMEL to Comply with the B1/B2 System). Where any provision of this Circular is inconsistent with the Regulations, the Regulations shall prevail. The statutory deadline of 31 March 2027, prescribed by regulation 5(11) of the Regulations and reiterated in Section 5 of Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036, is not altered by this Circular.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Before the introduction of regulation 125A in the Revised Edition 2026 of the Regulations, the Authority issued AMELs in categories A, C, A&C, X and R, as prescribed by regulation 5(8) of the Regulations.
- 2.2 Regulation 5(9) of the Revised Edition 2026 of the Regulations introduced an AMEL category structure aligned with international practice (ICAO Annex 1 and EASA Part-66), comprising Categories A, B1, B2, B3 and C, with the following subcategories: A1 (Aeroplanes – Turbine), A2 (Aeroplanes – Piston), A3 (Helicopters – Turbine), A4 (Helicopters – Piston), B1.1 (Aeroplanes – Turbine), B1.2 (Aeroplanes – Piston), B1.3 (Helicopters – Turbine), B1.4 (Helicopters – Piston) and B2 (Avionics, applicable to all aircraft).
- 2.3 Regulation 5(11) of the Revised Edition 2026 of the Regulations provides that “the aircraft maintenance engineers licences for category A, C, A & C, X and R shall not be renewed beyond 31 March, 2027 and shall be converted by the Authority into the appropriate B1 or B2 category upon request by the applicant in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Authority in the applicable technical guidance material.” In addition, regulation 125A prescribes, for each category and subcategory, the minimum practical experience to be acquired by new applicants not later than 31 March 2027.
- 2.4 The Authority has published Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036, which sets out the mapping between each legacy category and the corresponding B1 or B2 category or subcategory, together with the module examinations (Appendix 1 to TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036) that a legacy licence holder must pass in order to convert. The Advisory Circular confirms that licence privileges which do not comply with regulation 5(11) of the Regulations will automatically become invalid at the time of licence renewal, and that holders who have not converted by that date will lose the affected privileges and must be re-examined in accordance with Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL013 (Issue, Re-issue and Renewal of AMEL).
- 2.5 The approach adopted in this Circular:
- (a) preserves the privileges of existing licence holders for the duration of a defined transition period;
 - (b) credits demonstrated competence, so that only the specific knowledge gaps identified for each legacy category are examined; and
 - (c) phases conversion in cohorts rather than requiring all holders to act at the same time.

This approach is consistent with that used by other authorities that have moved their national aircraft maintenance licensing systems to a B1/B2 structure aligned with ICAO Annex 1 and EASA Part-66, and with the module-based conversion method already adopted under Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036. The Authority has taken that experience into account in setting the timeline in Section 8.

3. REFERENCES

- (a) The Civil Aviation (Personnel Licensing) Regulations, 2017 (GN No. 71 of 2017), as amended;
- (b) ICAO Annex 1 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation – Personnel Licensing;
- (c) Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL013 – Issue, Re-issue and Renewal of AMEL;
- (d) Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036 – Re-issue of AMEL to Comply with the B1/B2 System; and
- (e) AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03).

4. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Circular:

Approved Training Organisation (ATO) means a maintenance training organisation approved by the Authority under the Regulations to conduct aircraft maintenance engineer training. A reference in this Circular to an ATO is a reference to an ATO approved by the Authority;

Commencement Date means the date specified in paragraph 6.1 on which the Authority commences the issue of licences in categories B1 and B2;

Conversion means the process, described in Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036 and the AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03), of crediting a licence holder's existing qualifications against the B1/B2 syllabus and identifying the specific module examinations required to close any gap;

Group 1 Applicant means an applicant described in paragraph 6.2 who is eligible to be issued a B1 or B2 licence directly, without sitting the conversion examinations required under Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036;

Group 2 Applicant means a holder of a current Category A, C, A&C, X or R licence who converts to the corresponding B1 or B2 category or subcategory through the examination-based procedure set out in Section 7 of this Circular and Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036; and

Transition Period means the period from the date of this Circular until 31 March 2027, being the date fixed by regulation 5(11) of the Regulations after which Category A, C, A&C, X and R privileges cease to have effect.

5. APPLICABILITY

This Circular applies to:

- (a) AMOs approved by the Authority;
- (b) ATOs approved by the Authority that conduct aircraft maintenance engineer training;
- (c) holders of, and applicants for, an AMEL issued by the Authority; and
- (d) air operators and other organisations that rely on certifying staff licensed by the Authority.

6. COMMENCEMENT OF B1/B2 ISSUANCE – GROUP 1 (DIRECT ISSUANCE) PATHWAY

- 6.1 With effect from **1 January 2027**, the Authority shall begin issuing AMELs in categories B1 and B2, with the applicable type ratings, as prescribed under regulations 5(9) and (10) of the Regulations.
- 6.2 A Group 1 Applicant is a person who, as of **1 January 2027**, meets any of the following conditions:
- (a) holds a valid foreign AMEL, or an equivalent certificate, in category B1 and/or B2 (or a recognised equivalent) issued by a Contracting State, and has had that licence converted or validated by the Authority in accordance with the Regulations and the applicable technical guidance material;
 - (b) has completed an approved B1 or B2 initial training course at an ATO approved by the Authority and meets the corresponding minimum practical experience prescribed in regulation 125A of the Regulations; or
 - (c) is a current holder of an AMEL issued by the Authority who, before the Commencement Date, has sat and passed all the conversion module examinations applicable to the holder's legacy category under Appendix 1 to Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036.
- 6.3 A Group 1 Applicant shall apply through the Authority's standard AMEL application procedure, supported by evidence of the qualifying route relied upon under paragraph 6.2. The applicant shall be issued the appropriate B1 or B2 licence and type rating(s) from the Commencement Date without further conversion examination, subject to the normal verification of documents, medical fitness and other licensing requirements.
- 6.4 Between the date of this Circular and the Commencement Date:
- (a) AMOs shall notify their certifying staff, and ATOs their instructors, of this Circular and, in consultation with the Authority, identify which of their staff fall within Group 1 and Group 2; and
 - (b) the Authority shall open a registration window (see Section 8) through which Group 2 Applicants indicate their legacy category and preferred examination cohort.

7. GROUP 2 – CONVERSION PATHWAY FOR HOLDERS OF CATEGORY A, C, A&C, X AND R LICENCES

- 7.1 A Group 2 Applicant shall convert to the corresponding B1 or B2 category or subcategory using the category mapping table and the module examination matrix published in Appendix 1 to Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036. Conversion under this Section may commence from **1 January 2027** and shall remain available, on the phased basis set out in Section 8, throughout the Transition Period.
- 7.2 **Credit for existing qualifications:** Consistent with Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036 and the AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03), a Group 2 Applicant shall not be required to repeat basic or type training already satisfactorily completed and evidenced. Only the specific module examination(s) identified for the applicant's legacy category in Appendix 1 to Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036, or in an individual conversion report prepared under the AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03), shall be required.

- 7.3 **Continuity of privileges:** A Group 2 Applicant's existing Category A, C, A&C, X or R privileges shall remain valid and exercisable throughout the Transition Period, and shall not be suspended or curtailed solely because the applicant has not yet converted, provided that the licence otherwise remains current (renewed and, where applicable, supported by valid recency). This continuity ceases on 31 March 2027 by operation of regulation 5(11) of the Regulations.
- 7.4 **Re-sit opportunities:** An applicant who does not pass a module examination at the first attempt shall be permitted to re-sit that module in accordance with the Authority's standard examination re-sit procedures, without having to repeat modules already passed.

8. TRANSITION TIMELINE

- 8.1 The Authority has phased the transition in order to spread the demand for examinations across the Transition Period and to avoid a last-minute bottleneck ahead of the statutory deadline. The indicative milestones are as follows:
- (a) **On issue of this Circular:** the Authority opens registration for Group 2 Applicants to indicate their legacy category, employer (AMO) and preferred examination sitting; the Authority and AMOs jointly identify the Group 1 or Group 2 status of each certifying staff member.
 - (b) **1 January 2027 (Commencement Date):** issue of B1/B2 licences to Group 1 Applicants commences; the first cohort of Group 2 conversion examinations commences.
 - (c) **January – February 2027:** results of the first cohort are processed and licences re-issued; the second cohort examinations are conducted.
 - (d) **February 2027:** the remaining cohorts are examined, with priority given to applicants who have not yet had an opportunity to sit and to re-sits for those who did not pass at the first attempt.
 - (e) **Up to 15 March 2027:** final examination window and last opportunity for re-sits before the statutory deadline; the Authority and AMOs shall give particular attention to any outstanding applicants at this stage.
 - (f) **31 March 2027:** statutory deadline under regulation 5(11) of the Regulations. Category A, C, A&C, X and R licence privileges that have not been converted by this date cease to have effect, and the holder must be re-examined in accordance with Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL013, as provided in Section 5 of Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036.

9. SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DISRUPTION TO THE INDUSTRY

- 9.1 **No blanket suspension:** The Authority shall not suspend the certification privileges of any Category A, C, A&C, X or R licence holder solely because conversion is pending, provided that the licence remains current and the holder is progressing through the registration and examination process described in Section 8.
- 9.2 **No unnecessary re-training:** Conversion is examination-based and credit-based in accordance with Appendix 1 to Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036, and does not require an applicant to repeat training or experience already satisfactorily demonstrated.
- 9.3 **Adequate examination capacity:** The Authority shall, as far as resources allow, schedule sufficient examination sittings, including regional sittings where practicable, to avoid overcrowding a small number of sessions immediately before the statutory deadline.

- 9.4 **Continuity of operations:** AMOs are expected to plan certifying staff rosters so that study leave and examination attendance do not compromise continuing airworthiness. The Authority shall engage with any AMO that identifies a genuine capacity risk.
- 9.5 **Proportionate fees and logistics:** The Authority shall apply its published fee schedule to conversion examinations in a manner that avoids duplicate charges for modules for which an applicant has already been credited, and shall publish examination venues and dates with reasonable notice.
- 9.6 **Delays caused by the Authority:** Where an applicant has registered within the timeline in Section 8, has attempted the required module examination(s), and is unable to complete conversion before 31 March 2027 solely because of a scheduling or capacity constraint on the part of the Authority, the Authority may, on a documented request submitted before that date, consider a limited administrative measure to avoid an unjust loss of privileges. For the avoidance of doubt, this paragraph does not extend, and shall not be construed as extending, the statutory deadline fixed by regulation 5(11) of the Regulations, and may not be relied upon by an applicant who has not registered and made a genuine attempt to convert within the Transition Period.

10. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 10.1 **The Authority shall:** publish the examination calendar and registration procedure; conduct and mark conversion examinations; issue B1/B2 licences to Group 1 and Group 2 Applicants who meet the applicable requirements; and monitor the overall progress of the transition against the timeline in Section 8.
- 10.2 **AMOs shall:** notify all affected certifying staff of this Circular; confirm the Group 1 or Group 2 status of each staff member to the Authority; support staff attendance at examinations; and maintain certifying staff coverage plans as described in paragraph 9.4.
- 10.3 **ATOs shall:** deliver B1/B2-aligned initial and conversion training in accordance with the AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03) and Advisory Circular TCAA-AC-SR-PEL036, and issue the evidence of training completion required for Group 1 or Group 2 applications.
- 10.4 **Licence holders shall:** register within the timeline in Section 8, attend scheduled examinations, and retain evidence of qualifications as required by the AMEL Examination Procedures Manual (TCAA-MAN-AME-PEL03).

11. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries concerning this Circular should be directed to the Personnel Licensing Section, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority, P.O. Box 2819, Dar es Salaam, or by e-mail to tcaa@tcaa.go.tz.

12. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Circular takes effect on the date of issue. The commencement date and the transition Period timeline in Sections 6 to 8 apply as stated therein.