

MACCARES BULLETIN

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MACCARES bulletin is published by the Accident Prevention and Investigation Group (APIG) by using the de-identified information collected from MACCARES. It serves as a platform for sharing aviation safety information in the community.

Here we share report extracted from MACCARES database:

1. *Captain Conduct and Crew Resource Management Concerns*

Two independent reports have been filed concerning the captain's conduct, specifically citing:

- Unprofessional behaviour
- Communication deficiencies
- Poor Crew Resource Management (CRM)
- Failure to adhere to Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)

Upon coordination with the operator's management in charge of flight crew members, it was confirmed that they had also received similar reports and manage to locate the crew members involved.

Management subsequently convened with the concerned pilots to address the issues raised. The meeting aimed to:

- Clarify expectations regarding professional conduct and SOP compliance
- Reinforce CRM principles and effective cockpit communication
- Establish corrective actions and follow-up procedures

Further monitoring and support measures are being considered to ensure operational standards are upheld.

2. *Flight Crew Training without Valid License*

A safety concern was submitted regarding the **rehiring and training of a pilot by the operator while the pilot's license was expired**. The report alleges that this practice may constitute a **violation of aviation regulations** and pose a **risk to flight safety**.



Regulatory Framework:

According to ANRM Paragraph 19.(4), a person may act as a pilot for the purpose of undergoing training or tests for the **grant or renewal of a pilot license**, even without holding a valid license, provided the following conditions are met:

“...no other person shall be carried in the aircraft or in an aircraft being towed thereby except:

- (i) a person carried as a member of the flight crew in compliance with this Regulation;
- (ii) a person authorised by the Civil Aviation Authority to witness or conduct the training/tests;
- (iii) if the pilot-in-command of the aircraft is the holder of an appropriate license, a person carried for the purpose of being trained or tested as a member of the flight crew of an aircraft.

AACM Findings:

- The pilot’s training activities complied with the conditions outlined in ANRM Paragraph 19.(4).
- During the **continued surveillance to the operator**, it was verified that re-entry pilots are subject to **initial training requirements** as outlined in the operator’s training manual.
- Operator’s training records confirm that the concerned pilot successfully completed the required initial training.
- The pilot’s **license renewal application was processed and approved by AACM**, with the renewed license issued prior to operational deployment.

3. *Cabin Safety Concern: Carriage of Electric Smart Luggage with Lithium Batteries*

During passenger boarding, cabin crew observed several passengers carrying **electric smart luggage** equipped with **high-capacity lithium batteries**, featuring remote control and charging functions.

Upon coordination with passengers, Macau International Airport security personnel, and the operator’s ground handling staff on duty, the following points were highlighted:

- **Security screening procedures** at Macau International Airport **do not consistently verify the battery capacity or watt-hour rating** of lithium batteries installed in smart luggage.
- **Passengers are not required to remove the batteries** from the luggage for separate carriage.



- The **operator currently lacks specific operational restrictions** or guidance on the carriage and use of electric smart luggage onboard.

Cabin crew raised concerns that **active use of charging functions in-flight**, without established safety protocols, **may pose a fire hazard** due to the risk of **thermal runaway** associated with lithium batteries.

According to **AC/AGA/013 – Restrictions on Dangerous Goods**, the carriage of lithium batteries is regulated, and **security personnel are instructed to check such items**.

Notably **most lithium batteries installed in smart luggage fall within the acceptable limits** specified in AC/AGA/013.

While the observed practices raise valid operational concerns, the carriage of smart luggage with lithium batteries is **permitted under AC/AGA/013**, assuming compliance with capacity limits and safety conditions. However, **inconsistent enforcement and post-screening battery reinstallation** may warrant further review to ensure cabin safety is not compromised.

4. Large Drone Show at Hac Sá Beach

Two independent reports were submitted regarding the large drone show at Hac Sá Beach. The reports questioned whether the activity had received prior authorization from AACM and raised concerns about:

- Potential violation of aviation regulations
- Impact on controlled airspace and flight route safety

Regulatory Verification

Following coordination with the relevant department, it has been **confirmed that the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operation in question was duly approved by AACM** in accordance with applicable regulations.

Conclusion

No regulatory breach has been identified. The UAV activity at Hac Sá Beach was conducted under **valid authorization issued by AACM**, and no further enforcement action is deemed necessary at this time.

End