



Civil Aviation Authority
SAFETY NOTICE
Number: SN-2021/009



Issued: 22 March 2021

General Aviation Roadmap Out of Lockdown – Resumption of Flying and Access to Instructional Flights

This Safety Notice contains recommendations regarding operational safety.

Recipients must ensure that this Notice is copied to all members of their staff who need to take appropriate action or who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not primarily affected
Air Traffic:	Not primarily affected
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	All General Aviation Pilots
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All Approved and Declared Pilot Training Organisations All General Aviation Pilots

1 Introduction

- 1.1 General Aviation (GA) will be permitted to resume activity in stages over the coming weeks as detailed in the [Government's latest guidance](#).
- 1.2 The purpose of this Safety Notice is to highlight and provide guidance to GA pilots on the issue of the two-week gap between the date on which non-professional GA pilots are permitted to resume flying, and when they will have the ability to fly with an instructor.

2 Scope

- 2.1 From 29 March 2021, GA flying for non-professional purposes for solo pilots, or individuals flying with a member of their household or bubble, can resume. It is currently the intention of Government that from 12 April 2021 flights with an instructor can resume.
- 2.2 Consequently, there is a two-week gap between the date when non-professional GA pilots may resume flying and the earliest date on which they will be able to fly with an instructor. While this makes sense from a public health perspective, as part of the gradual easing of restrictions, it will be very important for many GA pilots to initially fly with an instructor on resumption of GA flying.

Pilots who are no longer current may need to fly with an instructor before flying with an examiner on resumption of GA activity.

- 2.3 There has been an unprecedented lack of GA activity over the last 12 months as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. **As part of safely resuming GA activity, the CAA advises any GA pilot who has not flown for an extended period of time to take a check flight with an instructor before they resume flying as Pilot-in-Command** especially if there are any concerns or issues of low confidence about resuming flying.
- 2.4 This would mean delaying the return to GA flying beyond the date permitted by Government guidance.
- 2.5 Given the extended period of GA inactivity, it will be hugely beneficial for all GA pilots to first fly with an instructor as part of making the return to GA flying as safe as possible.
- 2.6 There will inevitably be a bow wave of demand for instructors from 12 April 2021; instructors have been enabled to stay current during lockdown to help facilitate the return to GA flying. To smooth out the inevitable demand for examiners in the coming weeks and months, we are working on an extension to General Exemptions Nos **1416** and **1418** until the end of July 2021.

3 Queries

- 3.1 Any queries as a result of this Safety Notice should be directed to the General Aviation Unit through GA@caa.co.uk.

4 Cancellation

- 4.1 This Safety Notice shall remain in force until further notice.