



Amendment to Aircraft Rules, 1937

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Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified the **Amendments to the Aircraft Rules, 1937**, aiming to promote **Safety and Ease of Doing Business in Aviation Regulation**.

- These amendments align India's aviation regulations with the [International Civil Aviation Organization's \(ICAO\) Standards and Recommended Practices \(SARPs\)](#) and international best practices.

What are the Key Amendments to the Aircraft Rules, 1937?

- **Extension of License Validity:**
 - The amendment extended the validity of **Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL)** and Commercial Pilot License (CPL) holders' licenses from five years to ten years.
 - This change is **expected to streamline the licensing process** and reduce administrative burdens on pilots and aviation authorities like the [Directorate General of Civil Aviation \(DGCA\)](#).
- **Enhanced Control Over False Lights:**
 - The revision clarified the **definition of "light" to include various sources** and extended the government's jurisdiction from **5 kilometers to 5 nautical miles around an aerodrome**.
 - It empowered the government to take action **against individuals displaying lights disrupting aircraft operation**, and in case of unattended lights, the government can intervene and report the matter to the relevant authorities for legal action under the [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#).
- **Removal of Redundant Rule:**
 - Rule 118, pertaining to the validation of foreign licenses, was removed to align regulations with the **evolving needs of the aviation sector**.
- **Liberalized Requirements for Air Traffic Controller License:**
 - The amendment introduced **flexibility in recency and competency requirements** for Air Traffic Controller License holders, allowing for simulated exercises, emergencies, and skill assessments.
 - This ensures **continued competence**, particularly during limited movements or watch hours.

What are the Significance of these Amendment Rules?

- The amendments can play a crucial role in **enhancing aviation safety by addressing concerns** related to the display of "false lights" around aerodromes.
- The extended jurisdiction and clarified definitions ensure a **safer operational environment**, reducing potential hazards and disruptions to aircraft operations.
- The streamlined licensing process and the removal of redundant rules can contribute to a **more business-friendly environment**, attracting investment and fostering growth in the aviation industry.

What is the ICAO?

- It is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) that was created in 1944 to promote safe, secure, and efficient air transportation around the world.
- ICAO develops **international standards and recommended practices** for aviation, including regulations for air navigation, communication, and airport operations.
- It also works to address global aviation issues, such as air traffic management, aviation security, and environmental protection.
- It is headquartered in **Montreal, Canada**.

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