



CC/ATCG/Ops/11

Date : 03.12.2020

The Member ANS  
Airports Authority of India  
CHQ, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan  
New Delhi - 110003

**Sub : ATC Watch Duty Time Limitations – Preparedness for DGCA CAR**

Sir,

Reference may please be made to DGCA CAR on Watch duty time limitations and rest requirements of Air Traffic Services Personnel engaged in air traffic services issued vide F. No.DGCA-21048/10/2018-ANS, effective from 05<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

It is brought to your kind notice that:

1. No guidance has been issued by AAI management to ATS In-charges and Air Traffic Controllers for implementation and compliance to WDTL DGCA CAR at their respective stations. More specifically smaller stations may find it difficult to provide rest period as mentioned in the CAR due to acute shortage of licensed ATCOs.
2. Implementation of WDTL CAR will require additional ATCOs and our current staffing policy is obsolete and may not fulfil conditions mentioned in the CAR. It is learnt that a revised draft staffing policy was made in the recent past, but for some reasons it could not see the daylight.
3. Airport Acceptance Rate and ATC Unit capacity should be published for all airports and units. Since the WDTL is for ensuring safe operations, Airport Acceptance Rate and ATC Unit capacity should follow established international procedures along with human performance criteria impacting safe operations, instead of cost benefit considerations.
4. 50% of Airport Acceptance Rate may be violated in case of small diversionary airports, during closure of destination Airport. AAI should provide additional manpower at these diversionary airports to deal with such exigencies.
5. Requirement of 48 hours of interval after night duty will result in 5 shift roster at all the H24 ATC units. Additional manpower for compliance of WDTL CAR may please be provided.
6. In exigencies, relaxation of WDTL is possible only with the permission of DGCA or Member ANS. For smaller airports, when such a requirement arises due to unusual traffic conditions (Elections, Sports Events, VVIP movement, Large gathering or ceremonies, Weather Diversions etc), necessary mechanism may be defined for ATS in-charges to coordinate expeditiously and efficiently so as to avoid any possible violation by Licensed ATCOs due to WDTL.

7. Situation may arise; wherein an ATCO despite knowing that his/her WDTL is exceeded, continue to perform ATC duty, to avoid leaving channel unmanned, in the absence of a relieving controller. Such instances should be dealt with sympathy by both AAI and DGCA and the license of the concerned ATCO should not be suspended. The violation, if any, should be considered as an act in good faith and for the safety of aircraft in the air.

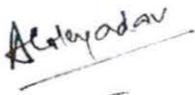
Sir, the draft WDTL CAR was published on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and almost 22 months of time was available with AAI for preparedness for implementation of WDTL CAR, but the requirement of manpower for its implementation was time and again conveniently ignored. The ATM Staffing plan has been kept in cold box and today Airports and ATCOs are struggling with acute shortage for implementation of WDTL CAR.

In view of the above facts, ATC Guild requests:

1. Necessary instructions may please be issued to all ATS In-charges to prepare ATCO duty roster for operational duty time-in position, administrative work and training in compliance with WDTL CAR.
2. ATC Unit capacity shall be published for all ATC Units at all Airports to avoid any confusion in relaxing duty time limitations if the published capacity goes below 50% level.
3. Manpower requirement assessment at all airports may please be done and time bound actions may please be taken to approve and implement New ATM Staffing plan as soon possible to cater to the acute shortage of ATCOs.
4. Necessary coordination may please be done with MoCA, Department of Expenditure and DPE to expedite the release of 340 posts for the year 2016 in ATM Dte as an immediate relief measure for implementation of WDTL.

We assure you our best cooperation.

Regards



(Alok Yadav)  
General Secretary

Copy to: Executive Director (ATM), AAI, CHQ, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110003