

# The registry of choice



The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands discusses the extension of the UK's ratification of the Cape Town Convention

**T**he Cayman Islands Aircraft Registry (the 'Registry') is the aircraft registry of choice for many owners of corporate aircraft, given its reputation of providing a safe, stable and credible flag for the operation of aircraft worldwide.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) is responsible for regulation of the local aviation industry as well as all aircraft on the Registry operating globally. The CAACI's regulatory requirements are in full compliance with the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) including the Part-NCC requirements for aircraft operating in the EU which come into force in August 2016.

The CAACI also works in close partnership with local aviation specialists to ensure that aircraft registrants have expert guidance on applicable law and procedures. To give an excellent example of this important partnership, the CAACI recently participated as a member of a local working group which included reputable local attorneys in the aviation finance practice along with key representatives from the Cayman Islands Government's Ministry of Financial Services.

The working group was established to assist with developing enabling legislation for the necessary legal framework to ready the Cayman Islands for The Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the associated Protocol on matters specific to aircraft equipment (also known as the 'Cape Town Convention') upon ratification by the United Kingdom and the extension to its Overseas Territories (OT's).

The importance of this exercise was realized when the UK did ratify the Convention in July 2015, the only OT to which the ratification was extended was the Cayman Islands along with UK Crown Dependency, Guernsey, due to Cape Town enabling legislation being in place in both jurisdictions.

The Cayman Islands Government and the CAACI are therefore pleased to announce the enactment of The International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Cape Town Convention) Law, 2015, which brought the Cape Town Convention into force in the Cayman Islands effective 1 November 2015 and, accordingly, the Cayman Islands will have international recognition under the Cape Town Convention.

As a result, relevant filings under the Cape Town Protocol such as the Irrevocable Deregistration and Export Authorisation (IDERA) can now legally be filed with the Registry.

The extension of the UK's ratification of the Cape Town Convention to the Cayman Islands is a significant development for the Cayman Islands financial sector, particularly as this should provide further comfort to established global financial institutions that participate in aircraft finance transactions who wish to transact with parties in jurisdictions that are recognised under the Cape Town Convention.

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The CAACI believes this milestone development assisted by the responsiveness and expertise of the professionals in the local financial sector will raise the profile and credibility of the Registry which is already known for its strict safety standards, as a key player for aircraft owners wanting to register their aircraft on a professional and reliable offshore aircraft register and the institutions providing financing. ■

## The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI)

