European Union Aviation Safety Agency

FAQ n.19543

FAQs:

Third Country Operators - General, Third Country Operators (TCO), Regulations

Question:

How is the economic aspect of the approval (commercial traffic rights - air services agreement) split from the EASA Safety oversight element?

Answer:

EASA TCO only takes over the safety-related part of foreign operator assessment, whereas operating permits (commercial traffic rights) will continue to be issued by individual Member States. EASA does not (and cannot) issue operating permits and these remain an area of national responsibility. A valid TCO Authorisation is a prerequisite before a Member State can issue an operating permit.

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Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/19543