



EASA Opinion on Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FTL) for Commercial Air Transport - Overview of the key features and main safety improvements

Key safety improvements	More restrictive than current EU FTL
General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Harmonized safety standards of a high level across all EU-27 + 4 by introducing uniform safety requirements for all FTL aspects.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
Home base	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A single airport location assigned with a high degree of permanence.	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased extended recovery rest period prior to starting duty after a change of home base.	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Travelling between the former and the new home base counts as duty (either positioning or Flight Duty Period (FDP)).	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Records on assigned home base to be kept for 24 months.	✓ <i>New</i>
Cumulative fatigue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved requirement for extended recovery rest by removing the possibility to have an earliest reporting time after the extended recovery rest before 06:00.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional cumulative duty limit per 14 days.	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional rolling limit per 12 calendar months.	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prolonged extended recovery rest period twice a months.	✓ <i>New</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased extended recovery rest to compensate for disruptive schedules.	✓ <i>New</i>
Maximum basic daily FDP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time window during which the maximum FDP is limited to 11 hours is extended to cover 12 hours between 17:00 and 05:00.	✓ <i>New</i>
Planned FDP extensions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The possibility to plan extensions for most unfavourable starting times has been removed.	✓ <i>New</i>

FDP extension due to in-flight rest	
▪ Extension based on quality of in-flight rest facility.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ No extension due to in-flight rest in economy seats.	✓ <i>New</i>
Commander's discretion	
▪ Non-punitive reporting process.	✓ <i>New</i>
Split duty	
▪ Defined minimum standards for accommodation and suitable accommodation.	✓ <i>New</i>
▪ Protection of useful break duration by excluding post and pre-flight duties and travelling from the break.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
Airport standby	
▪ Defined minimum standards for accommodation during airport standby.	✓ <i>New</i>
▪ FDP reduced for time spent on airport standby in excess of 4 hours.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ Limited duration of combination of airport standby plus FDP when called out (for FDPs with unaugmented crew and if no break on the ground is planned).	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
Standby other than airport standby	
▪ Duration limited to 16 hours.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ 25% of standby time counts for the purpose of cumulative duty time calculation.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ FDP reduced for time spent on standby in excess of 8 hours.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ Reasonable response time between call and reporting time to be established by operator.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ Standby has to be followed by a rest period.	✓ <i>New</i>
Reduced rest	
▪ Protected 8-hour sleep opportunity.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ Impact on cumulative fatigue mitigated by extension of the minimum rest period and reduction of the maximum FDP following the reduced rest.	✓ <i>Harmonised</i>
▪ Continuous monitoring of the performance of the rule with FRM.	✓ <i>New</i>

Rest to compensate for time zone differences

- Increased rest at destination. ✓ *Harmonised*
 - Monitoring of fatiguing effects of rotations. ✓ *New*
 - Additional rest after alternating rotations east-west / west-east. ✓ *New*
 - Minimum rest at home base measured in local nights with a minimum of 2 local nights after significant (4 or more) time zone transitions depending on the number of time zone crossed and the duration of the time spent away. ✓ *Harmonised*
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Fatigue management training

- Mandatory initial and recurrent training for crew members, crew rostering personnel and concerned management personnel. ✓ *New*
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Other elements

- Operator requirement to specify how nutrition is ensured in the Operations Manual. ✓ *New*
- Improved requirements on record keeping. ✓ *New*