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New regulations welcome step for aviation industry

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed the confirmation of Part 139 Aerodrome regulations following extensive industry consultation.

AAA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie said the update to Part 139 was an important step forward for the industry.

“CASA has worked collaboratively with airports to make sure these changes keep pace with the increasing professionalism of our industry and deliver a safety framework that is fit for purpose,” Ms Wilkie said.

“The confirmation of the new regulations is an important milestone and we look forward to working with CASA as we prepare for their implementation in 2020.”

The new regulations will see a change from existing aerodrome certificates to a ‘scalable certificate’ that reflects the operations at individual airports.

Technical changes to the manual of standards will also better align Australia with ICAO requirements, while all registered aerodromes will be required to produce an aerodrome manual.

“The changes are seeing a shift towards an outcomes-based approach, allowing airports more flexibility to meet regulatory requirements in a way that is consistent with their size and the nature of their operations,” Ms Wilkie said.

“This is a great outcome for industry and has been informed by meaningful dialogue between CASA, airport operators and others over an extended period of time.”

An 18-month preparation period now gets underway, with CASA and the AAA to develop a range of tools to support airports as they transition to new arrangements.

“CASA is working to ensure the transition to the new aerodrome regulations is as smooth as possible,” a CASA spokesperson said.

“There will be guidance material and support for aerodromes that need to make changes.

“CASA is redeveloping the aerodrome manual template and will have an online manual building tool to provide step-by-step guidance.

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“Registered aerodromes without a current manual will be able to build one quickly using the online tool, which will have pre-loaded text and guidance material.”

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