

GROUND HANDLING LICENCEE NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL LICENCEES

Following community consultation HAL has decided to proceed with introduction of the Ground Operations Licence effective 1st Apr 2014.

Explanatory note

On 26th July 2013, Heathrow announced it would commence consultation on revisions to the existing Groundhandling Licence. As part of the revisions, the Licence would be re-titled as the 'Ground Operations Licence' to avoid doubt and confusion amongst the 300 companies not involved in groundhandling but operating airside.

All companies who provide a groundhandling service at Heathrow or who operate vehicles airside at Heathrow are required to hold a Groundhandling Licence. The current Licence was introduced in 2010. Since then, a number of Licencees expressed concern at being required to hold a "Groundhandling" Licence when the nature of their business is not directly related to groundhandling.

Pursuant to the UK Airports (Groundhandling) Regulations 1997 ("the Regulations"), HAL issues a licence to all providers of groundhandling services and companies who operate airside at Heathrow. Regulation 16 requires Heathrow "to ensure that suppliers of groundhandling services and airport users wishing to self-handle have access to airport installations to the extent necessary for them to carry out their activities". This Regulation further requires that any conditions HAL place on such companies "are relevant, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory", the "space available for groundhandling at the airport is divided among the various suppliers of groundhandling services and self-handling airport users" and "any fee charged for such access is determined according to relevant, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria".

The following timelines were followed during the consultation:

Date	Milestone
26 July 2013	HAL published Consultation document
31 July 2013	Formal Consultation meetings commence #1
28 August 2013	Formal Consultation meeting #2
16 September 2013	Final Consultation meeting held #3
1 October 2013	Written responses due from users
7 October 2013	Airport Users' Committee (AUC) Annual General Meeting (AGM)
17 January 2014	HAL announces final decision

A number of responses were received and the feedback has been taken in to consideration. There were no outright rejections of the proposed changes.

Final text of the Ground Operations Licence will be published in February 2014.

Should you have any queries, please contact the Head of Ground Handling on 0208 745 5326 or by email to auc@heathrow.com

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