AIRCRAFT FINANCE ONLINE

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RWANDA

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REGISTRATION

1. Registration of Aircraft

Is there a Register of Aircraft?

Yes, there is a register of aircraft in Rwanda (the Aircraft Register) and it is maintained by the Civil Aviation Authority (the Authority). Aircraft registration in Rwanda is governed by the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations (the Aircraft Registration Regulations).[3] **RWA 1.1**

The Regulations provide for: general registration requirements for aircraft, eligibility criteria, the classification of aircraft, the application procedure, any change of registration or ownership, the deregistration of the aircraft, the nationality and registration marking of the aircraft amongst other things.

The Authority is responsible for the registration of aircraft in Rwanda as well as for maintaining a current register on its premises.[4]

What aircraft may be registered?

Law No.20/2018 of 29 April 2018 art.2 establishing regulations governing civil aviation[5] (which repealed Law No.75/2013) establishing Regulations Governing Civil Aviation Law 2013 defines the term "aircraft" to mean: **RWA 1.2**

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The law in this chapter is up to date to February 2025.

[3] Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations 2017.

[4] Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations 2017 reg.4(5).

[5] Article 2 of Law No.20/2018 of 29 April 2018 establishing regulations governing civil aviation.

> "any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth's surface."

This includes all lighter-than-air and heavier-than-air aircraft.

In general, no aircraft may be operated within or flown over Rwanda unless:

- it is registered by its owner in accordance with the Regulations and the Authority has issued a certificate of aircraft registration (which shall be carried aboard that aircraft for all operations); or
- it is registered in a Contracting State; or
- it is registered in some other State in relation to which there is in force an agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the Government of that State which makes provision for the flight over Rwanda of aircraft registered in that State.[1]

The reference to "Contracting State" means a State that is a signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention).

Under the Regulations an aircraft is eligible for registration if it is owned by a qualified person and not registered under the laws of any foreign country.[2]

The following persons are qualified to be the owners of a legal (or beneficial) interest in an aircraft registered in Rwanda, or a share therein:

- the Government of Rwanda, the Government of any East African Community Partner States or one of their entities;
- citizens of East African Community Partner States or persons legally and bona fide resident in the East African Community;
- corporate bodies incorporated under the laws of Rwanda that are controlled in fact by citizens of Rwanda or persons legally and bona fide resident in Rwanda and of which, at least, 75% (or such lesser percentage as the Minister may, by Order, specify) of the voting interest is owned and controlled by citizens of Rwanda or persons legally and bona fide resident in Rwanda.[3]

What documentation and consents are required for registration?

RWA 1.3 A person who wishes to register an aircraft in Rwanda in the Aircraft Register shall submit an application for the registration of the aircraft to the Authority. This, on a form prescribed by the Authority. Each application shall:

- certify the citizenship of the applicant;
- provide evidence of its ownership of the aircraft;
- be signed in ink; and
- be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

The application for the registration of an aircraft in the Aircraft Register must contain the following information:

- a description of the aircraft which identifies it by reference to its manufacturer, its type and model as designated by its manufacturer, and the serial number given to it by its manufacturer;

[1] Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations 2017 reg.4(1).
[2] Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations 2017 reg.5(1).
[3] Civil Aviation (Aircraft Registration and Marking) Regulations 2017 reg.5(2).