

**BE SURE
ABOUT YOUR
PRIVATE
CHARTER
BEFORE YOU
BOARD.**



RISKS OF ILLEGAL CHARTERS

What is an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC)?

It is a certificate to authorise an operator to carry out specific air transport operations. On certain occasions, the AOC will include operating restrictions. Obtaining an AOC means that the operator has met the requirements and conditions of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and that it is fit to operate the aircraft safely and securely. AOCs are required for any type of commercial public transport flight.

What are private aircraft operations?

Private aircraft operations are flights that are not carrying passengers and/or cargo for commercial purpose (hire or reward). Example: flights on corporate or privately owned aircraft.

Your safety and security could be at risk

First of all, your safety and security are at risk. Properly licensed operators are regularly monitored by the responsible authorities to ensure they meet rigorous standards at all times.

You might not be properly insured

Legally established operators are obliged to have valid insurance policies covering risks to passengers, crew, baggage and cargo as well as risks of damage to third parties. Even if an operator holds insurance policies, these can be invalidated if the operator is not complying with the applicable safety and security laws and regulations, and does not hold the correct certificate for the flights being operated.

You might be exposed to financial and commercial risks

A legally established operator will have a trade license issued by the competent authority. If you suspect that the operator does not have a valid commercial license, you could be risking a situation where the business is not properly capitalized and is not following required business practices. Legitimate businesses also have to comply with laws designed to give you protection as a consumer.

Do I need to worry if I booked my flight through a broker or an agent?

There is no risk to book your flight through an agent or broker as long as the air operator (who is responsible for your transport) is holding a valid Air Operator's Certificate [AOC] and trade license.

How can I know if my flight is legal?

It is illegal for an aircraft operator to carry paying passengers unless it holds a valid Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) and a valid trade license. The best way to know whether your flight is legal or not is to ask to see these licenses. To verify the given information you can email the Department of Transport – Abu Dhabi with the Operator Name, Name of the AOC Holder and AOC Number at aviation.privateflights@dot.abudhabi.ae

Where can I get more information?

The Department of Transport can provide you with the brochure "Is my charter flight legal?" To request a copy, please send an email to aviation.privateflights@dot.abudhabi.ae or download your own copy by visiting the Department of Transport – Abu Dhabi website: <http://dot.abudhabi.ae>