

Aircraft Registration

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands ('CAACI') is responsible for aircraft registrations in the Cayman Islands. Aircraft registration has been firmly integrated as a key constituent of the Cayman Islands international financial services sector. The CAACI is the relevant regulatory authority and is mandated by law, inter alia, to ensure that civil aviation in the Cayman Islands conforms to the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Rawlinson & Hunter can assist with the registration of aircraft in the Cayman Islands and the incorporation of Cayman Islands holding companies to facilitate the ownership of such aircraft.

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The Cayman Islands Aircraft Registry is increasingly a registry of choice for aircraft owners and brokers who have expressed that the process is straightforward and efficient. The advantages of registering an aircraft in the Cayman Islands include the following:

- The Cayman Islands provide a safe, stable and highly regarded flag for registration of an aircraft and is a preferred jurisdiction for the incorporation of special purpose vehicles to own aircraft.
- The British based system of registration for both aircraft and aircraft mortgages, within a stable common law legal system.
- The security of the Cayman Islands with its highly developed common law legal system and supporting infrastructure for a wide range of transactions, including aircraft registrations.
- The tax neutral status of the Cayman Islands.
- The high standards of the CAACI have resulted in the Cayman Islands Aircraft Registry being internationally respected and recognised throughout the aircraft industry. The registration procedure and continuing requirements of the CAACI are highly regarded.

The CAACI's Aircraft Register is primarily a "Private Register" which means that, other than the national flag carrier of the Cayman Islands (Cayman Airways) and an airline mainly servicing the public of the Cayman Islands on a regular basis, the Aircraft Registry is not open for commercial aircraft.



The Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2001 (as amended) (“the AN(OT)O”) is a UK statutory instrument which has been extended to the British overseas territories and is the primary legislation applicable to aviation in the Cayman Islands. It contains regulations on the operational and airworthiness requirements of locally registered aircraft. The category of persons who are eligible to be registered on the Aircraft Registry as set out by the AN(OT)O is as follows:

- The Crown in right of Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom or in right of the Government of the Territory;
- Commonwealth citizens;
- Citizens of the Republic of Ireland;
- British protected persons;
- Bodies incorporated in some part of the Commonwealth and having their principal place of business in any part of the Commonwealth;
- Firms carrying on business in the Cayman Islands; or
- Unqualified persons residing or having a business in the Cayman Islands.

Criteria for Registering an Aircraft

The criteria for registering an Aircraft as provided by the CAACI include the following:

- Submission of an application for registration by the respective individuals or company
- Persons wishing to register an aircraft must prove eligibility and meet due diligence requirements
- Compliance with stipulated CAACI Airworthiness requirements
- Compliance with CAACI Flight Operational Requirements
- Appropriate licensing of Aircrew
- Maintenance Organisation Approval
- Radio License Application
- Physical Survey of Aircraft
- Payment of associated fees

CAACI Fees

There is a schedule of fees which can be downloaded from the CAACI website at www.caacayman.com which is dependent on the type of aircraft and its attributes.

Our Services

The R&H Trust Co. Ltd. can provide various aircraft registration services from the formation of a corporate asset holding vehicle, if chosen, through to the registration process with the CAACI. In the majority of cases, a Cayman Islands exempted company will be established as a special purpose vehicle in order to meet the qualified applicant requirements noted above.

The procedure to establish a Cayman Islands exempted company is quick and easy: the incorporation is effected on the day the registration documents are filed with the Cayman Islands Registrar of Companies.

Our Corporate Services brochure for further information regarding the formation of corporate vehicles is available upon request.

Please contact us for more information on the registration requirements or regarding the procedure and the relevant aircraft application documents.