

ICAO Definition of Business Aviation

ICAO only defines/recognises three kinds of operations, commercial air transport, general aviation and aerial work.

- **Commercial air transport operation.** An aircraft operation involving the transport of passengers, cargo or mail for remuneration or hire.
- **General aviation operation.** An aircraft operation other than a commercial air transport operation or an aerial work operation.
- **Aerial work.** An aircraft operation in which an aircraft is used for specialized services such as agriculture, construction, photography, surveying, observation and patrol, search and rescue, aerial advertisement, etc.

Business aviation is somewhere between commercial air transport (charter operations/taxi/air ambulance operations) and general aviation (corporate operations).

Regarding Europe, EASA does recognise four categories of operations, based on the commerciality of the operations and the complexity of the aircraft operated.

- **commercial operation** shall mean any operation of an aircraft, in return for remuneration or other valuable consideration, which is available to the public or, when not made available to the public, which is performed under a contract between an operator and a customer, where the latter has no control over the operator;
- **complex motor-powered aircraft** mean:
 - (i) an aeroplane:
 - with a maximum certificated take-off mass exceeding 5 700 kg, or
 - certificated for a maximum passenger seating configuration of more than nineteen, or
 - certificated for operation with a minimum crew of at least two pilots, or
 - equipped with (a) turbojet engine(s) or more than one turboprop engine, or
 - (ii) a helicopter certificated:
 - for a maximum take-off mass exceeding 3 175 kg, or
 - for a maximum passenger seating configuration of more than nine, or
 - for operation with a minimum crew of at least two pilots,
 - or
 - (iii) a tilt rotor aircraft

Based on those two core definitions EASA does recognise the following categories of operations

Commercial Air transport (CAT); Non-Commercial operations with Complex aircraft (NCC); Non-Commercial operations with aircraft Other than complex (NCO), Special Operations SPO.

Here again, Business Aviation due to its specificities belongs to more than one category. CAT operations for all commercial operations, NCC for all corporate operations and even NCO for some specific airframes such as the PC-12 and the TM 850 that are operated as corporate aircraft.

IBAC Definition of Business Aviation

Definition of Business Aviation:

'That sector of aviation which concerns the operation or use of aircraft by companies for the carriage of passengers or goods as an aid to the conduct of their business, flown for purposes generally considered not for public hire and piloted by individuals having, at the minimum, a valid commercial pilot license with an instrument rating.'

Sub-Divisions of the Definition

Subsequent to the adoption of the above definition, the Governing Board recognized that, from time to time, this definition for Business Aviation will not suit the specific requirements of a particular issue being considered, and that a breakdown of segments within the business aviation community would be advantageous. An example is safety regulation where private and commercial delineation may be beneficial to business aviation.

IBAC therefore established three sub-divisions for the segments that collectively make up business aviation. IBAC does not actively promote these sub-divisions of the definition, but they may be made available to regulatory authorities and others for specific requirements, providing that the complete definition of business aviation is also made available.

Sub-division 1 Business Aviation – Commercial

The commercial operation or use of aircraft by companies for the carriage of passenger or goods as an aid to the conduct of their business and the availability of the aircraft for whole aircraft charter, flown by a professional pilot(s) employed to fly the aircraft.

Sub-Division 2 Business Aviation – Corporate

The non-commercial operation or use of aircraft by a company for the carriage of passengers or goods as an aid to the conduct of company business, flown by a professional pilot(s) employed to fly the aircraft.

Sub-Division 3 Business Aviation – Owner Operated

The non-commercial operation or use of aircraft by an individual for the carriage of passengers or goods as an aid to the conduct of his/her business.

Sub-Division 4 – Business Aviation – Fractional Ownership

The operation or use of aircraft operated by an entity for a group of owners who jointly hold minimum shares of aircraft operated by the entity. Fractional Ownership operations are normally non-commercial; however, the operation of the aircraft may be undertaken as a commercial operation in accordance with the AOC held by the entity.