



# Airport Coordination Limited

## Guidance to Historic Determination at Level 3 Airports for S21

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**V1 - December 2020**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Covid-19 has had a significant impact on demand across the aviation sector. This has resulted in alleviation being sought to remove or reduce the requirement to operate to achieve historic entitlement in the subsequent season.
- 1.2 Both the WASB Recommendation for S21 and the European Commission's proposed amendment to the EU Slot Regulation specify slot utilisation lower than 80% to qualify for historic precedence. Should alleviation be granted that requires utilisation lower than 80% of the slots held at Historic Baselines Date (HBD), ACL will **not** apply 8.7.2 of the WASG (more commonly known as "Double Dip"). This is in line with the WASB Recommendation to suspend double dip.
- 1.3 During discussion on S21 alleviation, it has become apparent that ACL's observance of WASG 8.7.2 is not aligned with several other Coordinators in Europe who do not apply double dip. Section 8.7.2 of the WASG is not reflected in the Slot Regulation and so its application is at the discretion of the coordinator. To date, it has been ACL's policy to apply 8.7.2 but we will take the opportunity to review that policy and the application of double dip beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 To aid airline planning, the following document sets out ACL's approach to determining historic entitlement at Level 3 airports without double dip. It is intended as a general advice to air carriers on common issues of practice and interpretation. It does not purport to cover all possible scenarios and circumstances. **ACL advises carriers to seek advice from the relevant Coordination Manager if unclear.**
- 1.5 This guidance on the determination of historic precedence in accordance with EU Regulation 95/93 as amended by EU Regulation 793/2004 (EU Slot Regulation) and, after 1 January 2021 for UK airports the version of that regulation adopted by the UK.

## 2. Eligibility for Historic Precedence

- 2.1 To be eligible for historic precedence in the next equivalent season, slots must be:
- a series of at least five (5) slots held at the HBD at the same time on the same day-of-week<sup>1</sup>,
  - used for the operation of direct air services<sup>2</sup>,
  - operated as cleared by the coordinator for at least 80% (or at the level set under any applicable alleviation) of the time during the period held at HBD (utilisation target),
  - operates at least 80% (or at the level set under any applicable alleviation) of the slots held at HBD at the time allocated with flexibility to retime within the clock hour that the historic (baseline) slot time is held.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to applicable local rules for example the Local Rule requires a carrier to hold 80% of the series to be eligible for historic entitlement in the subsequent seasons.

<sup>2</sup> Direct Air Services as defined under EU95/93 amended EU Regulation 793/2004 2(c)

2.2 A series of slots is defined separately by day-of-week, so a daily service is considered as a series of Mondays, series of Tuesdays etc. The utilisation target is applied to each day of the week.

Example A																																	
Weeks	Time	Flight No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	13:30	XX001	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated	13:30	XX001	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Operated	13:45	XX003														1	1	1	1	1													
SHL	13:30	XX001	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Example B																																	
Weeks	Time	Flight No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	13:30	XX001	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Operated	13:30	XX001	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Operated	14:30	XX003											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
SHL	13:30	XX001	Historic failed as flights operated at 1435 (outside the cleared hour) for commercial reasons so did not count as operated.																														

### 3. Determination of the Utilisation Target

- 3.1 The utilisation target for a series of slots is measured against the number of slots held at the relevant slot return deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January (Summer) or 31<sup>st</sup> August (Winter).
- 3.2 The cancellation of slots prior to the HBD will affect the period of eligible historic. Only series of slots held (five weeks or more) will be considered for historic eligibility. Slots held for fewer than five weeks will be considered as non-historic and will be excluded from the utilisation target and the 20% double dip allowance no longer applies.
- 3.3 Where cancellation made prior to the HBD result in more than one series, each series will be treated independently. The utilisation target will be set for each series and WASG 8.7.2.1 will **not** be applied.
- 3.4 Cancellation of part of a series at HBD will not be granted alleviation and will not be counted as operated. Cancellations will not count towards the utilisation target.
- 3.5 All cancellation after the HBD and failure to operate without cancelling in advance will not count as operated, unless justified in accordance with legislation or section 8.8 of the WASG.

### 4. Counting Operations

- 4.1 Actual operations automatically count towards the utilisation target when they operate within the following times of the allocated slot:
  - **Arrivals:** 2 hours early to 12 hours late
  - **Departures:** 30 minutes early to 12 hours late
- 4.2 Delays beyond 24 hours must request a new slot and do not count towards the utilisation target.
- 4.3 Following ad hoc schedule changes, actual operations continue to count towards the utilisation target of the series where the air carrier:

- Scheduled within the clock hour that the slot has been allocated
- Retimes outside the clock hour may be considered for operational reasons outside of the carrier's reasonable control on agreement with the relevant Coordination Manger
- Changes the flight number
- Changes the destination

4.4 An adhoc schedule change outside of the clock hour the historic (baseline) slot time is held, **DOES NOT** count towards the utilisation target unless such a retime has been approved in advance by ACL related to an operational requirement outside the carrier's reasonable control.

4.5 Where the times are changed for a significant proportion of the scheduling period, the coordinator and air carrier should agree which time will be considered as historic in the next equivalent season subject to available capacity.

## 5. Allocation on a Non-Historic Basis

5.1 Slots may become available due to circumstances where the original slot holder will nonetheless retain historic precedence in the next equivalent season. This situation can arise where the cancellation is justified in line with Article 10(4) of the regulation, or where the cancellation or combination of cancellation is less than the permitted cancellations of the original series of slots.

5.2 To make use of scarce airport capacity, the coordinator may offer these slots to other air carriers on a non-historic basis. The coordinator will inform the air carrier of the slots' status at the time of the offer, and in accepting the offer the air carrier acknowledges that the slots are not eligible for historic precedence in the next equivalent season.

## 6. Other Information

6.1 Full series that are returned and alleviation sought will be returned to the slot pool for reallocation on a non-historic basis. Carriers that subsequently request the same slots will be considered after those on the waitlist.

6.2 New requests for slots after the HBD will be assessed against the declared or temporary capacity at the time of allocation. ACL makes no guarantees that slots returned will be available if a new request for the same slot is received.

## 7. Examples based on a Utilisation Target of 50% at all series held at ACL L3 airports in the UK, Europe, New Zealand and for Dubai International Airport, slots allocated prior to the introduction of the Local Rule on Historic Eligibility.

7.1 The following examples are a guide only and are based on a utilisation target of 50%. Examples will be updated when alleviation is granted by the competent authority and the utilisation target is known.



Example C																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1												1
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Notes: Utilisation target set at 16 operations (52%). 16 Operated

Example D																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1												1
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										

Notes: Two recognisable series the first having a utilisation target of 11 operations (52%) The second 3 operations (50%). The first segment passes as 15 operated. The second series fails as only 1 of the required 3 operated making utilisation 17%

Example E																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1					1
Operated			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1							1					1
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										

Notes: One recognisable series with a utilisation target of 11 operations (52%). Operations in week 25,26,30 and 31 considered non-historic. 71% of the series operated so utilisation target met.

Example F																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
Operated														1	1	1	1	1	1												
SHL											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											

Notes: One recognisable series with a utilisation target of 5 operations (50%). 60% of the series operated so utilisation target met.

Example G																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
HBD											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
Operated											1		1		1		1		1												
SHL											1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											

Notes: One recognisable series with a utilisation target of 5 operations (50%). 50% of the series operated so utilisation target met.

Example H																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD				1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1										1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated												1	1	1	1	1										1			1	1	1
SHL												1	1	1	1	1										1	1	1	1	1	1

Notes: Three recognisable series each with a utilisation target of 3 operations. The first series fails whereas the remaining two pass.

Example I																																
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
HBD				1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1										1	1	1	1	1	1	
Operated												1	1													1				1	1	1
SHL																										1	1	1	1	1	1	

Notes: Three recognisable series each with a utilisation target of 3 operations. Only the final series meets the utilisation target.

Example J																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD				1	1				1	1	1	1	1			1			1				1			1			1		1
Operated				1	1														1				1			1			1		1
SHL																															

Notes: One recognisable series with a utilisation target of 3 operations (60%). All other operations considered as adhoc. No series operations so utilisation target not met.

Example K																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated					1	1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1						1		1					
SHL																															

Notes: One recognisable series with a utilisation target of 12 operations (52%). Only 11 flights operated giving a utilisation of 48% so series fails.

Example L																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									1	1	1					
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																

Notes: Two recognisable series with utilisation target set at 8 operations for the first and 7 operations for the second. Only the first series meets the utilisation target and the second series fails

Example M																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Notes: Two recognisable series with utilisation target set at 8 operations for the first and 7 operations for the second. Both series meet the utilisation target.

## 8. Examples based on a Utilisation Target of 50% at Dubai International Airport for slots allocated post the introduction of the Historic Eligibility Local Rule

- 8.1 The following examples are a guide only and are based on a utilisation target of 50%. Examples will be updated when alleviation is granted by the competent authority and the utilisation target is known.
- 8.2 The Dubai International Airport local rule on historic eligibility requires a carrier to hold a series for 80% of the season length to be eligible for historic status in the subsequent season. The series must be consecutive weeks and only applies to newly allocated slots pursuant with the local rule allocated after the local rule was adopted.

8.3 Historic slots held prior to the historic eligibility local rule being adopted will be treated as per the examples in section 7 of this paper.

Example AA - DXB																																
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1												1	
SHL	Failed as not compliant with 80/80/20 Local Rule																															
Notes: 80% of slot held at HBD is not consecutive weeks and therefore not eligible for historic precedence																																

Example BB - DXB																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Operated			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Notes: 80% of the full season held at HBD. Utilisation target set at 13 operations and 15 operated.																															

Example CC - DXB																															
Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HBD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SHL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Notes: More than 80% of the full season held at HBD. Utilisation target set at 16 operations with 27 operated.																															