



Senior Controller Policy

Version 1.1

08/08/2021

WARNING

Information contained in this document is intended for flight simulation purposes and must not be used for any real-world aviation use.

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Chapter 0 Document Control

0.1 Document Identification

Name	0-05_Senior Controller Policy_V1.1
Category	Governance and Policies
Type	Policy
Scope	This policy applies to all VATPAC members who wish to achieve the VATSIM Senior Controller (C3) rating.
Review Period	24 months

0.2 Revision Record

Version Number	Issued Date	Ref No/Chapter	Details
1.0	01/01/2021	All	New Policy.
1.1	08/08/2021	All	Update minimum requirements and document layout.

0.3 Explanations and Definitions of Terms

Reserved.

Chapter 1 Background Information

1.1 General

The Senior Controller (C3) rating is unique in that it is the only standard controller rating that does not afford the controller any further permissions or airspace on the VATSIM network. That is, the candidate is already proficient at all the standard control positions and may control these positions and no new positions become available as a result of the Senior Controller rating.

Within VATPAC, the Senior Controller may be awarded to those who display mastery in the delivery of air traffic services and commitment to the development of themselves and others in the areas of online air traffic control and/or contribute significantly to the community in a non-ATS role, and who demonstrate competency in advanced concepts not covered by the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy competencies.

For more information, refer to section 1.2, paragraph E of the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy.

1.2 Application Process

To be issued a Senior Controller Rating (C3), a VATPAC member must make an application in line with section 3.1 of this policy, which will then be considered and voted on by the VATPAC Board to determine the applicant's suitability.

When a majority vote is achieved, the member will be able to undertake the Senior Controller Theory Exam (section 6 of this policy). Once the exam is passed, an applicant can be issued the Senior Controller Rating (C3).

1.3 Privileges, Expectations & Limitations

A general member of VATPAC whom, is the holder of a Senior Controller (C3) rating, has several privileges, responsibilities and expectations.

- a) They are to be viewed as a senior member of the community and may be called upon by VATPAC staff to fulfill training or educational roles within the organisation; and
- b) They may activate non-standard controller positions IAW the VATPAC Positions and Ratings Policy; and
- c) They may be called upon to fulfill controller positions during high traffic volume events with priority over other, less experienced controllers.

Chapter 2 Rating Requirements

2.1 Application

Any VATPAC member who wishes to obtain the rating of Senior Controller (C3), may make an application to the Director of ATC Training and Standards, for review by the VATPAC Board of Directors.

Their application must be professionally presented and contain the following:

- a) Explain how they meet the minimum criteria (section 3.2 of this policy); and
- b) A summary of their experience and contributions to VATPAC; and
- c) How they propose to contribute to the education and maintaining of ATC standards across all VATPAC approved controllers; and
- d) An overview of why they desire to undertake further study/assessment.

2.2 Minimum Criteria

VATPAC requires that the member must meet the following criteria, prior to applying to applying for the rating of Senior Controller (C3):

- a) Must hold a Controller 1 (C1) rating, and have held that rating for a minimum of 2 years; and
- b) Must hold an Oceanic Rating; and
- c) Must have completed the VATPAC Procedural Tower Endorsement; and
- d) Must be considered an **active** member of the VATPAC community; and
- e) Must be a proficient and skilled controller and must be willing to act as a mentor to both inexperienced pilots and controllers; and
- f) Must have an excellent reputation at VATPAC.

An **active** member of the community means controlling regularly over the previous 12-month period (including participating in VATPAC events) more than 3 hours per week on average, or as determined by the VATPAC board.

One or more of the requirements set out above, may be waived by the VATPAC Board during exceptional circumstances.

2.3 Theory Exam

The Senior Controller Theory Exam is targeted to specific competencies that the candidate must demonstrate. This list can be found in section 3.4 of this policy.

The examination will consist of 45 questions worth 60 marks. A combination of 1-mark, 2-mark and 3-mark questions will be used to assess the candidate.

The examination must be completed within 180 minutes and the minimum mark required to pass the examination is 80%.

The examination must be attempted within 6 months of the applicant being approved by the VATPAC Board and only 3 attempts will be allowed during this period.

2.4 Minimum Competencies

Candidates are expected to already be very proficient controllers with extensive experience. As such, concepts already covered by previous ratings are not covered.

The candidate must be found competent in the following concepts:

Tower Controlling	Pre Departure Clearance (PDC). Land and Hold Short Operations (LAHSO). Selecting Runway Modes. Start Clearances and Coordinator Controlling.
Approach and Departure Controlling	Airspace Optimisation (maximising usable space). Conditional Clearances. Missed Approaches and Sequencing. Independent and Dependent Runway Modes. Instrument Approach Training services.
Enroute Controlling	Tracking Deviations and Block Levels. Advanced Sequencing Techniques. Flight Information Services. Traffic/Safety Alerts.
Flow, Supervisory and Other Concepts	Flow Controlling Technique and Tools. Maintaining and Improving Situational Awareness. Assisting Members in difficulty. Effective Communication Techniques. Controller Client Tools & Concepts.
Instructional Concepts	Understanding Competency Based Training and Assessments. Personality and Learning Types/Traits. Basic Teaching Techniques. Reviewing and Critiquing Techniques.