
SA/4Z re-accommodation and reissue process

May 2020 V1

Q. Will Airlink automatically reissue all the tickets or must I send a list of my bookings to Airlink?

A. Airlink has the database of SA8/083 tickets issued in the period from 06 December 2019 onwards and will reissue according to a pre-determined process.

Q. What is the re-accommodation and reissue process?

A. The processing of the re-accommodations and reissues will be divided into two categories. The first category applies to: -

1. Suspended SA8/083 tickets where passenger no-showed – refund on taxes only (as per fare rules).
2. Open SA8/083 tickets over the lockdown period that require re-accommodation.

Point 1 and 2 above relates to tickets issued from 06 December 2019 for travel between 06 December 2019 up to 10 June 2020. The bookings will be re-accommodated in sequential ticket number order onto fictitious flight numbers. Once all these reissues have been done, Airlink will send out a media request asking people who had bookings in that period to contact Airlink with details of their new dates. Please note that this does not apply to passengers who have no-showed on Airlink flights – these tickets will remain non-refundable. The definition of a no-show is a passenger who does not cancel his/her booking even though the flight is still operating.

The second category applies to: -

1. Original SA8/083 tickets to be re-accommodated onto 4Z/749 tickets

Point 1 above relates to all tickets issued from 06 December 2019 for travel from 11 June 2020 onwards. The rebooking's and reissues will be handled in date order and Airlink will get in touch with each passenger/agent, where contact details are available, to ascertain if they are still going to travel on the current dates or if they require a date change.

Q. How long will this rebooking process take?

A. It is impossible to say but it could take months on the basis that there are tens of thousands of tickets to reissue. Airlink will process the bookings as fast as possible.

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Q. There seems to be a discrepancy regarding the dates in the media release

A. The heading and first paragraph of our most recent press release mentions “after the 06 December 2019”. It should read “from 06 December 2019”, in terms of defining the date period for these reissues.

Q. Why can Airlink not reissue tickets prior to 06 December 2019?

A. Airlink was given authorization by SAA’s business rescue practitioners to reissue tickets booked from the 06 December only – this is the day after SAA went into business rescue. All tickets issued prior to this date fall outside the scope of the agreement and are subject to a moratorium in terms of SAA’s business rescue process. The ticket sale funds for all SA8 tickets reside with SAA, and therefore Airlink is unable to accept these tickets unless the associated funds are made available.

Q. What should we do with tickets issued prior to 06 December 2019?

A. SAA has advised that they will issue vouchers to the value of those tickets for use towards any SAA designated future flight. This appears to be the only option right now, other than to wait and see what happens to SAA and the government guarantees that are meant to be in place to cover the value of all the tickets.

Q. Can agencies play any part in the re-issuing process?

A. As much as Airlink would like Agencies to assist with rebooking and reissuing flights from 083 ticket stock to 749 ticket stock, this would be deemed a CIP Violation. Airlink has been given temporary permission to commit this violation in order to move the flights across but unfortunately this cannot be extended to operators and agents.

Q. Once the tickets have been reissued onto 4Z/749 stock, can we still make a date change?

A. Yes, one free date change is permitted within 2 years of the original date of issue (the date of issue of the original SA8/083 ticket, not the new re-issued date on 4Z/749)

Q. When is the cut-off date to reissue my ticket with the new date?

A. All date change re-issues must be completed prior to 31 December 2021, or earlier in the case of any bookings made between the 06 - 31 December 2019. As the extended ticket validity is two years from date of original issue, all travel must be completed prior to the last day of the validity.

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Q. Will re-routings be permitted?

A. Re-routings will be as per fare rules.

Q. Will the difference in fare and taxes be collected when rebooking?

A. One free date change will be permitted within the 2-year ticket validity. When reissuing on the same routing and same booking class, the reissue will be at no ADC utilizing the applicable waiver auth (this will be done by Airlink). In the event that the same booking class is not available, the difference in fare and taxes must be collected but the rebooking fee will still be waived.

Please note that when Airlink reissues the ticket from SA8/083 to 4Z/749, this does not constitute utilization of the free change. This process is merely to get the booking across into the new system and onto the new code. The free date change is reserved for use by the passenger when deciding on a new date.

Q. What if the original ticket was issued prior to 06 December but reissued for another date after the 06 December 2019?

A. The original date of issue precludes Airlink from reissuing the ticket onto 4Z/749.

Q. Once the tickets have been re-accommodated onto 4Z/749, will all future changes need to be handled by Airlink.

A. Yes, Airlink will have control of the bookings due to the reissuing process.

Q. What will happen to the SSR's and seats in our previous booking?

A. Airlink will endeavour to try and replicate as many of the original requests as possible for all bookings.

Q. Should passengers decide not to travel, can they request a refund?

A. Airlink will incur a 13% Interline Service Charge billed to Airlink for reissuing the tickets. Airlink will absorb these costs for all tickets that maintain their bookings and travel within the 2-year ticket validity. However, in the event of a refund, the interline service charge will be deducted from the base fare and YQ component of the ticket, plus the applicable cancellation fee will be applied as per the fare rules.

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Q. What happens if my booking was cancelled due to a schedule change?

A. Any Airlink schedule changes prior to 11 March 2020 are classified as changes to our network and a full refund may be requested. Any schedule changes/cancellations of flights from the 11 March 2020 (the day the world Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic) are considered force majeure and standard refund processes apply – refund as per fare rules. This will remain in place until such time as domestic, regional and international travel bans are lifted worldwide.

Q. How long can I expect my refund to take?

A. Due to the vast volume of refund requests coming through, the processing time may take up to four months from date of submission. Every effort will be made to process refunds as quickly as possible.

Q How can I go about requesting a refund?

A. Please send your refund request to e-ticketing@flyairlink.com along with the relevant documentation – please see below .

Q. How will I be refunded?

A. Once a ticket has been reissued to 4Z/749, the original form of payment can no longer be accessed properly. With that in mind, all original tickets issued utilizing a credit card can only have their refund processed via EFT. Please send through a bank confirmation letter or bank statement, not older than 3 months, reflecting the name of the person who paid for the original ticket, account number (plus swift code if applicable), physical address of the bank, physical address of the account holder along with the ticket number, when requesting a refund.

Q. Will the new 4Z Tickets be seen in the original booking?

A. In some instances both the old and new flights details will be seen in the original booking but due to the various reservation systems involved, this may not always be the case.

Q. What happens if I already have a voucher for SAA in exchange for my Airlink ticket but prefer to have my original Airlink flight instead?

A. We are still waiting for a response from SAA regarding the possibility of voiding the voucher and permitting the original ticket to be reissued to the corresponding Airlink flight.

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Q. What happens if I am waiting for a voucher from SAA and do not want my ticket on Airlink reissued?

A. Please email e-ticketing@flyairlink.com immediately and advise that you are waiting for a SAA voucher and do not want your ticket reissued onto an Airlink flight. Please note that there is no guarantee that Airlink can extract the booking in time, but will do our best.

Q. Are tickets transferrable to another passenger?

A. Tickets are non-transferable.

Q. Are we guaranteed of having SA8 tickets booked after 06 December 2019 reissued onto 4Z/749 ticket stock?

A. Airlink will continue to reissue tickets on the basis that the funds for these tickets are paid over. In the event that payment for the reissued tickets are no longer made, Airlink will have no choice but to suspend ticket reissues immediately.

Q. What types of tickets will be accommodated from SA8/083 to 4Z/749?

A. All published fares, group fares and FIT fares.

Q. Are there any tickets that will not be re-accommodated from SA8/083 to 4Z/749?

A. We are unable to accept any Industry (rebated), Agency or Voyager Redemption tickets for re-issuing

Q. What happens if my ticket is part of a multi-sector itinerary containing SAA flights issued on SA8/083?

A. All Airlink SA8 sectors will be removed from the original itinerary and reissued onto 4Z/749 flight numbers. The remaining itinerary will stay as booked.

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Q. If I have already issued a new ticket on 4Z/749 in place of my old SA8 ticket, what happens to that old ticket now?

A. In the event that you have already bought a new ticket that matches the old ticket in name and routing, please send both tickets to e-ticketing@flyairlink.com who will verify them both and send the original ticket in for refund.

Q. When will Airlink commence operations again?

A. At this stage the South African government has given no indication of when domestic, regional and international flights may recommence.

Q. What are the contact details to get in touch regarding rebooking's or general queries?

A. On account of the lockdown and suspension of air travel, Airlink only has skeleton staff working, largely on a remote basis. E-ticketing@flyairlink.com can be contacted with any queries. Please note that due to excessive email volumes, the response may be delayed.

Distributed on behalf of Airlink

For more information contact

Airlink Head Office

+27 11 451-7300

info@flyairlink.com