

EUROPEAN *cargo*

MOVING ► **FORWARD**

European Cargo Virtual

OPERATIONS & INFORMATION GUIDE

MSFS 2024 | VERSION 1.0 | OCTOBER 2026

MOVING FORWARD | REALISTIC OPERATIONS | GLOBAL ROUTES | ONE COMMUNITY



CONTENTS

Use this as the master reference for ECV information

NO.	SECTION	CONTENT
01	About ECV	Purpose, background, identity and BMG relationship
02	Airline Structure	Management, teams and responsibilities
03	Fleet & Aircraft	Approved aircraft, add-ons, liveries and downloads
04	Hubs	Cardiff, Bournemouth, Birmingham and Teesside
05	Route Network	Permanent sectors and seasonal routes
06	Recruitment & Joining	Requirements, application process and recruitment status
07	Pilot Progression	Ranks, flight hours and promotion requirements
08	Flight Operations	Planning and completing a flight
09	ECV Policies	Community rules, realism and use of systems
10	Standard Operating Procedures	Core SOPs for ECV pilots.
11	ACARS & Flight Tracking	Setup, tracking and flight submission
12	Charter & Special Operations	Ad-hoc, seasonal and special cargo flights
13	Downloads & Resources	Tools, links, liveries and documents
14	Community & Partnerships	Discord, BMG and confirmed external partnerships

01 / ABOUT ECV

WHO WE ARE

European Cargo Virtual is a virtual cargo airline operating within Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024. Focused on realistic Airbus A340 cargo operations, ECV offers pilots the opportunity to fly scheduled freight routes, specialist charters and seasonal cargo services across an expanding international network.

Operating from four UK hubs: Cardiff, Bournemouth, Birmingham and Teesside. ECV connects regional UK airports with destinations across Europe, Asia and beyond.

OUR MISSION

Our aim is to build a realistic, welcoming and well-organised virtual cargo operation where pilots can develop their flying experience, take part in a variety of operations and become part of a growing aviation community.

We combine realistic flight planning and aircraft procedures with an enjoyable community environment, allowing pilots to fly independently while contributing to a wider operation.

OUR OPERATIONS

SCHEDULED CARGO

Regular services connecting ECV's UK hubs with international destinations

CHARTER OPERATIONS

Ad-hoc cargo flights, specialist movements and routes beyond the scheduled network

SEASONAL OPERATIONS

Limited-time networks and special flights, including our Winter and Christmas cargo operations

OUR PLACE WITHIN BMG

European Cargo Virtual is part of the British Midland Group (BMG), working alongside other virtual airline operations while retaining its own dedicated cargo identity, community and operational focus.

Through BMG, ECV benefits from shared systems, ACARS and flight tracking, pilot progression and wider group opportunities.

02 / AIRLINE STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

OUR STRUCTURE

European Cargo Virtual operates as a dedicated cargo airline within the British Midland Group. ECV maintains its own identity, community and day to day operations while benefiting from shared group systems and support.

BRITISH MIDLAND GROUP

Provides the wider group structure, shared systems, technical support and coordination across its virtual airline operations.

ECV MANAGEMENT

Responsible for the direction and day-to-day running of European Cargo Virtual, including operations, recruitment, community development and future expansion.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

AIRLINE MANAGEMENT

- ☐ Oversee ECV's development and overall direction
- ☐ Coordinate operations, recruitment and community activity
- ☐ Maintain ECV standards and policies

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

- ☐ Maintain the scheduled route network
- ☐ Coordinate charter and seasonal operations
- ☐ Support realistic and consistent flight procedures

RECRUITMENT & COMMUNITY

- ☐ Manage pilot applications and onboarding
- ☐ Support pilots and encourage community participation
- ☐ Help maintain a welcoming environment

SYSTEMS & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- ☐ Support ACARS, flight tracking and related systems through the relevant BMG team
- ☐ Assist with technical issues and system updates

03 / FLEET & AIRCRAFT

OUR FLEET

European Cargo Virtual operates a dedicated Airbus A340 cargo fleet within Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024. The aircraft forms the backbone of ECV's long-haul cargo network, connecting our UK hubs with destinations across Europe and beyond.

AIRBUS A340

The Airbus A340-600 is ECV's primary aircraft for scheduled cargo operations. Its four-engine configuration and long-range capability make it suitable for the airline's international freight routes.

Primary role: Scheduled cargo and long-haul operations

Simulator: Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024

Approved use: ECV scheduled routes, subject to aircraft and route compatibility

AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY

Pilots should use aircraft and add-ons approved by ECV for MSFS 2024. Before operating a flight, check that the selected aircraft is suitable for the planned route and compatible with ECV's operational systems.

ECV LIVERY & DOWNLOADS

Official ECV liveries and approved aircraft download links will be listed here once confirmed. Pilots should use the designated ECV livery where available to maintain a consistent airline identity.

Aircraft add-on: Aerosoft A340 & Inibuilds A340

ECV livery: [Search Add-Ons & Mods | Flightsim.to](#)

FLEET POLICY

- ☐ Use only approved aircraft and compatible add-ons
- ☐ Apply the official ECV livery where available
- ☐ Check aircraft and route suitability before departure
- ☐ Report missing liveries, compatibility issues or aircraft problems through the appropriate ECV support channel

04 / HUBS & BASES

OUR UK HUBS

European Cargo Virtual operates from four UK hubs, forming the foundation of its scheduled cargo network. Each hub serves a dedicated group of flight numbers and connects the UK with destinations across Europe, Asia and beyond.

HUB OPERATIONS

CARDIFF (EGFF)

One of ECV's core UK bases, supporting scheduled cargo flights and selected charter operations.

BOURNEMOUTH (EGHH)

A key base for ECV's international cargo network, operating services across Europe and Asia.

BIRMINGHAM (EGBB)

Supports a range of scheduled freight services, connecting the Midlands with ECV destinations.

TEESSIDE (EGNV)

Provides an additional northern UK base, expanding ECV's coverage and operational flexibility.

FLIGHT NUMBER SYSTEM

ECV uses a simple flight number structure to keep the network organised:

- ❑ 100 series: Cardiff
- ❑ 200 series: Bournemouth
- ❑ 300 series: Birmingham
- ❑ 400 series: Teesside

Odd numbered flights generally operate outbound from the UK hub, while the corresponding even numbered flight operates the return sector.

05 / CARGO NETWORK

OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

European Cargo Virtual operates a scheduled cargo network connecting four UK hubs with destinations across Europe and Asia. The network is built around the Airbus A340-600, supporting both short European sectors and longer international freight operations.

NETWORK OVERVIEW

4 UK HUBS

Cardiff · Bournemouth · Birmingham · Teesside

7 DESTINATIONS

Vienna · Urumqi · Chongqing · Chengdu · Haikou · plus any additional destinations confirmed in the active schedule

28 SCHEDULED SECTORS

A planned network of outbound and return flights, organised by hub and flight number

HOW THE NETWORK WORKS

SCHEDULED CARGO

Regular routes form the core of ECV operations. Each service has a designated flight number, departure airport, destination and estimated flight time.

FLIGHT TIMES

Published flight times are estimates intended for planning and simulation purposes. Actual flight duration may vary with routing, weather, winds and simulator conditions

NETWORK GUIDANCE

Before operating a scheduled flight, pilots should check the current ECV route list and confirm the correct flight number, departure and arrival airports, approved aircraft and estimated flight time.

Charter flights and limited time seasonal routes are published separately so pilots can distinguish them from the permanent scheduled network.

06 / SCHEDULED ROUTE DIRECTORY

CADIFF HUB

EGFF · ECV100 SERIES

ECV101 - Cardiff to Urumqi

Estimated flight time: 7h 45m

ECV102 - Urumqi to Cardiff

Estimated flight time: 8h 15m

ECV111 - Cardiff to Vienna

Estimated flight time: 2h 25m

ECV112 - Vienna to Cardiff

Estimated flight time: 2h 35m

All flight times are estimates and may vary depending on routing, weather, winds and simulator conditions. Check the current ECV schedule before departure.



BOURNEMOUTH HUB

EGHH · ECV200 SERIES

ECV201 — Bournemouth to Chongqing

Estimated flight time: 11h 15m

ECV202 — Chongqing to Bournemouth

Estimated flight time: 12h 00m

ECV211 — Bournemouth to Chengdu

Estimated flight time: 10h 00m

ECV212 — Chengdu to Bournemouth

Estimated flight time: 13h 30m

ECV221 — Bournemouth to Urumqi

Estimated flight time: 8h 10m

ECV222 — Urumqi to Bournemouth

Estimated flight time: 10h 00m

ECV231 — Bournemouth to Haikou

Estimated flight time: 12h 00m

ECV232 — Haikou to Bournemouth

Estimated flight time: 13h 00m

ECV241 — Bournemouth to Vienna

Estimated flight time: 2h 20m

ECV242 — Vienna to Bournemouth

Estimated flight time: 2h 30m

All flight times are estimates and may vary depending on routing, weather, winds and simulator conditions. Check the current ECV schedule before departure.

BIRMINGHAM HUB

EGBB · ECV300 SERIES

ECV301 — Birmingham to Chengdu

Estimated flight time: 10h 30m

ECV302 — Chengdu to Birmingham

Estimated flight time: 11h 30m

ECV311 — Birmingham to Chongqing

Estimated flight time: 11h 15m

ECV312 — Chongqing to Birmingham

Estimated flight time: 12h 00m

ECV321 — Birmingham to Urumqi

Estimated flight time: 8h 45m

ECV322 — Urumqi to Birmingham

Estimated flight time: 9h 30m

ECV331 — Birmingham to Vienna

Estimated flight time: 2h 15m

ECV332 — Vienna to Birmingham

Estimated flight time: 2h 25m

All flight times are estimates and may vary depending on routing, weather, winds and simulator conditions. Check the current ECV schedule before departure.

TEESIDE HUB

EGNV · ECV400 SERIES

ECV401 — Teesside to Chengdu

Estimated flight time: 10h 45m

ECV402 — Chengdu to Teesside

Estimated flight time: 11h 30m

ECV411 — Teesside to Urumqi

Estimated flight time: 8h 45m

ECV412 — Urumqi to Teesside

Estimated flight time: 9h 30m

ECV421 — Teesside to Haikou

Estimated flight time: 12h 00m

ECV422 — Haikou to Teesside

Estimated flight time: 13h 00m

All flight times are estimates and may vary depending on routing, weather, winds and simulator conditions. Check the current ECV schedule before departure.

07 / OPERATIONS & FLIGHT PLANNING

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

European Cargo Virtual aims to provide an organised and realistic cargo flying experience within Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024. Pilots should prepare for each flight, follow appropriate aircraft procedures and record their completed operations correctly.

BEFORE DEPARTURE

- ☐ Check the current ECV scheduled route network
- ☐ Confirm the correct flight number and departure and arrival airports
- ☐ Prepare a flight plan using Sim Brief or the approved planning tool
- ☐ Check weather conditions, fuel requirements and suitable alternate airports
- ☐ Ensure the selected aircraft is approved for ECV operations

DURING THE FLIGHT

- ☐ Follow the aircraft's normal operating procedures and checklists
- ☐ Use appropriate ATC procedures and radio phraseology when flying online
- ☐ Operate the aircraft realistically and maintain safe separation from other traffic
- ☐ Follow ECV and relevant online-network rules

AFTER LANDING

- ☐ Complete the flight using the approved ECV ACARS or tracking system
- ☐ Check that the correct flight details have been recorded
- ☐ Report any technical issues or unusual events through the appropriate support channel

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

All pilots are expected to maintain accurate flight records, follow published ECV procedures and treat fellow pilots respectfully. Realism is encouraged, while maintaining an enjoyable and welcoming environment for the community.

Always refer to the latest ECV procedures and announcements for current operational requirements.

08 / RECRUITMENT & JOINING

JOIN EUROPEAN CARGO VIRTUAL

European Cargo Virtual welcomes pilots who enjoy cargo aviation and want to be part of a growing virtual airline community. Whether you're experienced with long-haul operations or developing your skills in Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024, ECV offers an opportunity to fly within an organised cargo network.

HOW TO JOIN

01 - JOIN THE DISCORD

Join the official ECV Discord server to meet the community, view announcements and access recruitment information

02 - COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

Follow the recruitment instructions provided in the server and submit any required application details

03 - GET SET UP

Once accepted, review the relevant ECV information, aircraft requirements and operational guidance before beginning your flights

04 - START FLYING

Choose an available scheduled route, prepare your flight plan and follow the current ECV operating procedures

BEFORE APPLYING

Pilots should have access to Microsoft Flight Simulator 2024 and be able to operate an aircraft approved for ECV flights. Any additional software, aircraft requirements or minimum experience requirements will be confirmed in the official recruitment information.

Please use the official ECV recruitment channels for the latest joining instructions and requirements.

09 / PILOT PROGRESSION

DEVELOP YOUR EXPERIENCE

European Cargo Virtual encourages pilots to build their experience through regular flying, accurate flight reporting and involvement in the community. Our aim is to provide a clear pathway for pilots to develop their skills while enjoying ECV operations.

YOUR JOURNEY WITH ECV

01 - NEW PILOT

Join the ECV community, review the available guidance and become familiar with the airline's route network and operating procedures.

02 - ACTIVE PILOT

Build experience by completing scheduled cargo flights, recording flights correctly and becoming familiar with ECV's operational systems.

03 - EXPERIENCED PILOT

Develop greater confidence with longer routes, flight planning, aircraft procedures and a wider range of cargo operations.

04 - COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

Get involved with community activities, support other pilots and contribute ideas that help ECV develop.

05 - MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As ECV grows, opportunities may arise for suitable members to assist with recruitment, operations, community support or other areas of airline management.

HOW TO PROGRESS

- ☐ Fly regularly when time allows
- ☐ Follow ECV operating procedures and community rules
- ☐ Submit accurate flight reports
- ☐ Develop your flight-planning and aircraft-handling skills
- ☐ Support fellow pilots and contribute positively to the community

OUR APPROACH

Progression is intended to recognise experience, reliability and positive involvement rather than simply the number of hours flown. Any formal ranks, minimum flight-hour requirements or promotion criteria will be published separately once confirmed by ECV management.

Pilot progression arrangements may develop as the airline grows. Refer to official ECV announcements for the latest information.

10/ ACARS & FLIGHT TRACKING

TRACKING ECV OPERATIONS

European Cargo Virtual uses flight tracking and reporting systems to help record pilot activity and monitor completed operations. These systems support accurate flight records and provide a consistent way to manage the airline's scheduled network.

BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT

01 - SELECT YOUR FLIGHT

Check the ECV route network and confirm your assigned or selected flight number, departure airport and destination

02 - SET UP ACARS

Open the approved ECV/BMG ACARS system and enter or select the correct flight details, following the current instructions

03 - CHECK YOUR AIRCRAFT

Ensure the selected aircraft and simulator are compatible with the tracking system before departure

DURING YOUR FLIGHT

- ☐ Start tracking in accordance with the current ACARS instructions
- ☐ Keep the tracking system running throughout the flight
- ☐ Follow any system prompts or operational requirements
- ☐ If tracking fails, record the issue and contact the appropriate support channel

AFTER LANDING

- ☐ Complete the flight using the approved ACARS procedure
- ☐ Confirm that the flight has been submitted or recorded successfully
- ☐ Check that the flight number, airports and aircraft details are correct
- ☐ Report missing or inaccurate records to the relevant support team

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

For ACARS installation, connection problems, missing flight records or other technical issues, use the designated ECV support channel. Issues involving shared BMG systems may need to be referred to the relevant BMG technical team.

Exact setup and submission procedures should follow the latest instructions supplied by ECV/BMG. Do not assume a flight has been logged until the system confirms it.



11/ ECV POLICIES

OUR STANDARDS

European Cargo Virtual aims to maintain a friendly, organised and respectful environment for everyone involved in the airline. All pilots and community members are expected to act responsibly and represent ECV positively.

PILOT CONDUCT

RESPECT

Treat fellow pilots, staff and other community members with respect. Harassment, discrimination and deliberately disruptive behaviour should be reported through the appropriate channels.

PROFESSIONALISM

Communicate appropriately, follow reasonable staff instructions and help maintain a welcoming community.

HONESTY & ACCURATE REPORTING

Submit genuine flight reports and accurate operational information. Do not deliberately falsify flight details or tracking records.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

FOLLOW PROCEDURES

Use the current ECV operating guidance and follow the applicable rules of Microsoft Flight Simulator and any online networks you join.

USE APPROVED AIRCRAFT

Check that your aircraft and add-ons are approved and suitable for the planned ECV route.

REPORT ISSUES

Notify the relevant support team if you experience technical problems, incorrect flight records or operational difficulties.

COMMUNITY & GROUP RELATIONSHIPS

ECV maintains its own cargo identity and community within the British Midland Group. Members should follow the applicable ECV community rules and any relevant BMG-wide requirements.

12/ STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

PART 1: FLIGHT PREPARATION & DEPARTURE

FLIGHT PLANNING

Before beginning an ECV flight, pilots should:

- ☐ Select a route from the current ECV network
- ☐ Confirm the correct flight number and departure and arrival airports
- ☐ Prepare a flight plan using Sim Brief or the approved planning tool
- ☐ Review weather conditions, fuel requirements and suitable alternate airports
- ☐ Check the planned route and aircraft suitability

AIRCRAFT PREPARATION

- ☐ Load the correct aircraft and ECV livery where available
- ☐ Confirm the aircraft is suitable for the planned flight
- ☐ Complete the aircraft's normal pre-flight procedures and checklists
- ☐ Set up the flight plan and navigation systems as appropriate
- ☐ Check that required simulator and tracking systems are working

ACARS & FLIGHT REGISTRATION

Before starting the flight:

- ☐ Open the approved ECV/BMG tracking system
- ☐ Enter or select the correct flight details
- ☐ Confirm the flight number, aircraft and route
- ☐ Start tracking according to the current ACARS instructions

Do not assume the flight is being tracked until the system indicates that it is active

DEPARTURE

During departure preparation and take-off, pilots should:

- ☐ Follow the aircraft manufacturer's normal operating procedures
- ☐ Use appropriate checklists and configure the aircraft correctly
- ☐ Follow ATC instructions when flying on an online network
- ☐ Use the correct runway and departure procedures for the planned flight
- ☐ Maintain safe and realistic aircraft operation

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECK

- ☐ Correct route and flight number selected

- ☐ Flight plan and aircraft preparation completed
- ☐ Weather and fuel requirements reviewed
- ☐ ACARS tracking active, where required
- ☐ Departure procedures and clearances checked

These procedures provide general guidance for virtual airline operations. Always follow the aircraft-specific checklists, applicable online-network rules and current ECV/BMG instructions.



13/ STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

PART 2: EN-ROUTE, ARRIVAL & COMPLETION

ENROUTE OPERATIONS:

During the flight, pilots should:

- ☐ Monitor the aircraft's systems, fuel state and flight progress
- ☐ Follow the planned route and make appropriate adjustments when necessary
- ☐ Comply with ATC instructions when flying online
- ☐ Maintain realistic aircraft handling and follow aircraft-specific procedures
- ☐ Monitor weather and conditions that could affect the flight

DIVERSION & UNEXPECTED EVENTS

If the planned destination becomes unsuitable or an unexpected issue occurs:

- ☐ Assess the situation and identify a suitable alternative airport if required
- ☐ Follow the aircraft's procedures and applicable ATC instructions
- ☐ Prioritise safe aircraft operation over completing the planned route
- ☐ Record the reason for a diversion or significant interruption where required
- ☐ Contact ECV support if the event affects flight tracking or reporting

ARRIVAL & LANDING

Before landing, pilots should:

- ☐ Review the arrival route, approach and current weather
- ☐ Prepare the aircraft in accordance with its normal checklists
- ☐ Follow ATC instructions and applicable approach procedures
- ☐ Maintain safe, stable and realistic aircraft operation
- ☐ Vacate the runway safely after landing and taxi to an appropriate stand

FLIGHT COMPLETION & REPORTING

After arriving at the destination:

- ☐ Complete the aircraft shutdown procedures as appropriate
- ☐ Finish the flight in the approved ECV/BMG ACARS system
- ☐ Confirm the flight has been submitted or recorded successfully
- ☐ Check that the flight number, airports and aircraft details are correct
- ☐ Report missing records, technical issues or unusual events through the appropriate support channel

FINAL FLIGHT CHECK

- ☐ Flight completed safely
- ☐ ACARS flight record submitted, where required
- ☐ Flight details checked for accuracy
- ☐ Any relevant issues reported

ECV OPERATING PRINCIPLE

Fly realistically. Follow procedures. Record flights accurately. Support the community.

These procedures are general guidance for virtual airline operations and do not replace aircraft-specific checklists, real-world aviation procedures or online-network rules.

14/ DOWNLOADS, RESOURCES & CONTACTS

PILOT RESOURCES

European Cargo Virtual aims to provide pilots with the information and tools needed to plan, operate and record their flights. Use the official links below to access ECV resources and current operational information.

OFFICIAL LINKS

ECV WEBSITE

N/A

ECV DISCORD

[ECV Discord Here](#)

BMG WEBSITE

[British Midland Virtual](#)

ACARS & FLIGHT TRACKING

[ACARS Set Up Link](#)

FLIGHT PLANNING & AIRCRAFT

SIMBRIEF

[Sim Brief Set Up](#)

ECV LIVERIES

[ECV Livery Hub](#)

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Refer to the latest ECV/BMG instructions and aircraft-specific checklists before each flight

SUPPORT & ENQUIRIES

For recruitment questions, operational assistance, technical issues or general enquiries, contact the relevant team through the official ECV Discord server.

For issues relating to shared BMG systems, pilots may be directed to the relevant BMG support channel.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow ECV's official community channels for route updates, recruitment announcements, special operations and other airline news.

EUROPEAN CARGO VIRTUAL.

MOVING FORWARD.

Realistic operations. Global routes. One community.

Links and resources should be checked regularly to ensure pilots are directed to the latest official information



