



International Civil Aviation Organization

## WORKING PAPER

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(Information paper)

English and Russian only<sup>1</sup>

### ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Agenda Item 18: Passenger and crew health and the prevention of spread of communicable disease

#### MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF THE AERONAUTICAL SPECIALISTS OF CIVIL AVIATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AGREEMENT ON CIVIL AVIATION AND AIRSPACE USE

(Presented by the Interstate Aviation Committee<sup>2</sup>)

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper contains information on the organization and procedure of medical certification of the aeronautical personnel in order to confirm their medical fitness for performing professional duties.

*Strategic  
Objectives:*

This working paper relates to Strategic Objective E – *Continuity*.

*Financial  
implications:*

Not applicable.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Taking into account the urgency of the issue of medical certification of the aeronautical specialists of civil aviation and the need to bring the system of the medical support of civil aviation flights into conformity with the modern requirements in the light of the ICAO recommendations, twelve member States of the Agreement on Civil Aviation and Airspace Use approved the corresponding Aviation Rules, which have been recommended for introduction in the interested countries.

<sup>1</sup> English and Russian version provided by the Interstate Aviation Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC) is the executive body of the interstate Agreement on Civil Aviation and Airspace Use (international agreement, participants of which include Azerbaijan Republic, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Ukraine, Republic of Uzbekistan).

## 2. **MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF THE AERONAUTICAL SPECIALISTS OF CIVIL AVIATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AGREEMENT ON CIVIL AVIATION AND AIRSPACE USE**

### 2.1 **General**

2.1.1 Medical certification is a procedure for issuing an aeronautical specialist a medical document, confirming his medical fitness for performing professional duties, and is a component part of the Aviation Rules "Aeronautical Personnel Licensing".

2.1.2 Aeronautical specialists performing aircraft operations, air traffic controllers, as well as candidates for receiving training in the educational institutions of civil aviation and students (participants of the training) of such institutions are subject to medical certification.

2.1.3 The Medical/Flight Expert Commission shall determine medical fitness of the aeronautical specialists for their professional activity by the results of the medical examination and issue First, Second and Third Class Medical Certificates.

2.1.4 The following Medical Certificates are issued to the candidates and license holders:

- a) **First Class** – to commercial pilots, airline transport pilots, flight navigators, flight engineers and flight mechanics, candidates for training and students, which are being trained for these specialties;
- b) **Second Class** – to flight radio operators, flight attendants and flight operators of transport aircraft, observer pilots, parachutists, private pilots, glider pilots, balloon pilots and ultra-light vehicle pilots; and
- c) **Third Class** – to air traffic controllers, candidates for training and students, receiving air traffic controller training.

2.1.5 The period of validity of the First Class Medical Certificate is twelve months, Second and Third Class Medical Certificates – twenty-four months beginning with the date of issue. Medical Certificate validity shall be confirmed by the aviation physician when conducting medical examination of the aeronautical specialists every six months, as well as when conducting a medical examination prior to each flight.

2.1.6 An aeronautical specialist shall not be permitted to perform his professional duties, if he has no Medical Certificate or if the period of validity of his Medical Certificate has expired.

2.1.7 Responsibility for the preservation and strengthening of health lies with the aeronautical specialist, who shall inform the aviation physician or the Medical/Flight Expert Commission about all cases of health problems.

## 2.2 Medical certification of aeronautical specialists

2.2.1 Medical certification is realized while conducting a medical examination of the aeronautical specialists and medical\flight expert examination, determining, if the state of health of the examined specialist satisfies medical requirements.

2.2.2 Tasks of the medical examination include:

- a) determining, if aeronautical specialists, candidates for the educational institutions of civil aviation and students are medically fit to perform the appropriate professional duties;
- b) carrying out arrangements aimed at preserving health, professional capacity for work and ensuring flight safety;
- c) revealing early symptoms of disease, risk factors and dynamic disturbances in the state of health for the purpose of taking timely therapeutic, rehabilitation and recreation measures.

2.2.3 Medical Fitness Requirements of the aeronautical specialists are stated in Annex 1 to the Aviation Rules, which consist of sixty-four items of disease and physical defect designations with their codes in accordance with the International Disease Classification (IDC-10). Annex 2 contains supplements to each item of the Medical Fitness Requirements.

2.2.4 Medical examination shall be conducted by the Medical/Flight Expert Commission\*, consisting of the chairman responsible for the organization of the medical examination and for giving the medical conclusion, medical specialists/experts (therapist, neurologist, surgeon, ophthalmologist, otorinolaryngologist), psychologist and other specialists assigned in accordance with the established procedure of the State. Aviation physicians and representatives of the civil aviation organization may participate in the work of the Commission.

2.2.5 The supreme body of the medical/flight expert examination in the member State of the Agreement is the Central Medical/Flight Expert Commission of Civil Aviation\*\* with its proper complement.

2.2.6 The Medical/Flight Expert Commission should have a license to conduct the medical/flight expert examination and a certificate of compliance.

2.2.7 Aviation Rules determine in detail the procedure of the medical examination of the aeronautical specialists, the required scope of the check-up, the necessary list of equipment and set of instruments for the Medical/Flight Expert Commission and medical contra-indications for the aeronautical specialists pertaining to the work in polar expeditions, countries with hot climate and also to the aerial chemical works.

2.2.8 The physician of the civil aviation organization shall organize, not earlier than one month prior to the beginning of the medical examination, carrying out laboratory and instrument check-ups,

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\* The provision on the Medical/Flight Expert Commission of Civil Aviation is presented in the Aviation Rules.

\*\* The provision on the Central Medical/Flight Expert Commission of Civil Aviation is presented in the Aviation Rules.

necessary examinations as well as drawing up medical documents for the medical certification at the Medical/Flight Expert Commission.

### **2.3 The procedure of giving medical conclusions and issuing Medical Certificates**

2.3.1 Expert medical conclusions on medical fitness (unfitness) for professional activity is given on the basis of the medical examinations conducted by the expert physicians of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission with the account of the Medical Fitness Requirements to the Aeronautical Specialists. While giving individual fitness assessment (ICAO principle of flexibility) one shall take into account the character of the disease, the extent of its manifestation, its course and the reversibility of the pathological active condition, degree of compensation and intact dynamic reserves of the organism, possible progress of the disease and getting after-effects in case of continuing professional activity, efficiency of the undergone treatment, the influence of the disease on flight safety, individual psycho-physiological peculiarities of the examined person and the character of the performed work.

2.3.2 A medical conclusion shall be given at the Medical/Flight Expert Commission meeting and drawn up according to the established pattern. Each meeting session shall be recorded in the minute book, signed by the chairman and all members of the Expert Commission and certified by its stamp.

2.3.3 A Medical Certificate of the appropriate class or Notification about the denial to issue it shall be drawn up and issued to the aeronautical specialist by the chairman of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission (Central Medical/Flight Expert Commission). The "Special Notes" section shall indicate the terms of the license and, if necessary, individual indices of the systole frequency, arterial pressure and other recommendations. Medical Certificate and Special Notes shall be certified by the stamp of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission.

2.3.4 The list of the examined specialists, whose medical conclusions should be approved by the Central Medical/Flight Expert Commission, has been determined and realization dates have been fixed.

2.3.5 Patterns of the documentation required for the medical/flight expert examination are presented in the Annexes to the Aviation Rules.

### **2.4 Drawing up medical documentation**

2.4.1 The procedure for filling in the medical document when conducting medical examination of the aeronautical specialist by the aviation enterprise (airline) physician, as well as the Medical Record when conducting medical examination of the candidate, entering educational institutions of civil aviation, by the detachment/course physician has been determined. There has also been determined the procedure for issuing these papers to the specialist, keeping them, passing them to the aviation enterprises or civil aviation organizations and the responsibility for the safe keeping of the documentation.

2.4.2 In order to receive or renew the Medical Certificate the claimant shall personally fill in the application for receiving the Medical Certificate according to the established form.

2.4.3 The aviation enterprise (airline) physician or detachment/course physician shall personally examine the specialist when preparing aeronautical specialists for the medical examination, sending them to hospital for a check-up or consultation and drawing up an epicrisis in a prescribed

volume, the examined specialist shall be familiarized with the contents of this epicrisis and certify this by appending his personal signature.

2.4.4 The results of the aeronautical specialist's check-up at the medical examination (laboratory, rontgenological, data of the electrocardiogram, etc.) shall be entered in the corresponding issues of the medical document or medical record of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission in chronological order.

2.4.5 Medical specialists/experts of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission shall enter in the medical documentation check-up data of the examined specialist, diagnosis and recommendations according to their profile, which shall be certified by the physician's personal signature and seal.

2.4.6 The results of the hospital check-up in the form of an extract from the case history shall be pasted in the medical document of the examined specialist.

2.4.7 On the basis of the aeronautical specialists' medical examination data the approved registration and report documentation shall be drawn up and such information shall be confidential.

## **2.5 Dynamic medical observation of aeronautical specialists in the intercommission period**

2.5.1 Dynamic medical observation of the aeronautical specialists shall be carried out by the aviation enterprise (airline) physician, detachment/course physician of the educational institution of civil aviation, medical specialists/experts of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission and other medical specialists.

2.5.2 Periodic medical examinations of the aeronautical specialists by the aviation enterprise (airline) physician or detachment/course physician shall be conducted every six months after the regular medical examination.

2.5.3 By the results of the periodic medical examinations the physician shall confirm that the Medical Certificate is valid and give permission for professional activity or training, determine the need for the aeronautical specialist to be granted a day off or regular leave, receive consultations or undergo medical treatment (out-patient, in-patient, sanatorium, rehabilitation and prophylactic).

2.5.4 Medical observation of the persons, having departures in their state of health, shall be carried out on the basis of the normative documents functioning in the member State of the Agreement.

2.5.5 Laboratory and dynamic/diagnostic analysis, therapeutic/prophylactic and recreation measures for the aeronautical specialists in the intercommission period shall be carried out in accordance with the prescription of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission or in case of medical necessity.

2.5.6 Prophylactic vaccinations and anti-epidemic measures for the aeronautical specialists shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements set in the member State of the Agreement.

2.5.7 The aviation physician shall also conduct medical examinations of the aeronautical specialists and students of the educational institutions after recovery from the disease (injury), after more than one month leave, an aircraft accident or a serious incident and if there is a medical necessity, as well as medical examinations of the graduates of the flight training institution, flight personnel specialists and

air traffic controllers, transferred from other aviation enterprises or rehabilitated after the recess in the flight or air traffic controller's work with the aim of giving them permission for their professional activity.

2.5.8 In case of a medical necessity, the aviation physician may submit to the chairman of the Medical/Flight Expert Commission a substantiation about conducting a special (pre-term) medical examination of the aeronautical specialist.

2.5.9 In the intercommission period, aircraft crew members shall undergo a preflight medical examination prior to the flight (in the member States of the Agreement, where a preflight examination is being conducted), and air traffic controllers shall undergo a pre-shift examination prior to taking over duty.

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