

DIRECTORATE GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION

F. No. AV/22025/11/DMS/Med
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MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR CIVIL AIRCREW
- Assessment and Appeal system in DGCA

1. Flight crew need to undergo regular medical examination to maintain their medical fitness for flying duties. The validity of medical examinations for various categories of licences is as under:-

| Type of Licence | Validity of Medical Assessment |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Student pilot licence (aeroplane/ helicopter/ microlite aircraft / glider / balloon) | 24 months |
| Private pilot licence (aeroplane / helicopter) | 24 months |
| Pilot's licence (microlite aircraft/ glider/ balloon) | 24 months |
| Commercial pilot licence (aeroplane / helicopter) | 12 months* |
| Airline transport pilot license (aeroplane/ helicopter) | 12 months* |

*The period of validity of the medical assessment will be reduced to half after the holder attains the age of 40 years.

- (a) The medical examination may be carried out at any of the following establishments, subject to availability of dates :-
- (i) No. 1 Aeromedical Training Centre
Air Force Station
Hindan, Ghaziabad 201004
 - (ii) Air Force Station
Chandigarh 160003
 - (iii) Air Force Station
Agra 282008

- (iv) Air Force Station Tambaram,
Chennai 600046
- (v) Air Force Station, Begumpeth
PO: Bowenpally, Hyderabad 500011
- (vi) Air Force Station
Kanpur 208008
- (vii) Air Force Station Barrackpore,
Kolkatta 700120
- (viii) Air Force Station Cottongreen,
Mumbai 400033
- (ix) Air Force Station
Lohegaon, Pune 411032
- (x) Air Force Station
Palam, New Delhi – 110010
- (xi) Air Force Station
Yelahanka, Bangaluru – 560063
- (xii) Air Force Station
Hakim Peth, Secundrabad – 500014
- (xiii) AFCME New Delhi
- (xiv) IAM IAF Bangalore
- (xv) MEC (E) Jorhat
- (xvi) Nanvati Hospital Mumbai
- (xvii) Max hospital New Delhi
- (xvii) Apollo Hospital Chennai

- (b) Certain medical examinations have been mandated to be carried out at the following institutions, with checks as specified :-

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| (i) | Every fourth year renewal - and every seventh six-monthly renewal as applicable. | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore MEC (East) Jorhat |
| (ii) | Licences which have lapsed for a period of over two years | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore MEC (East) Jorhat |
| (iii) | After a period of unfitness | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore MEC (East) Jorhat |
| (iv) | Special Medical Examination | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore |

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| | MEC (East) Jorhat |
| (v) Renewal medical examination above 60 yrs of age | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore |
| (vi) All Appeal medical examinations | AFCME New Delhi IAM IAF, Bangalore |

During a medical examination, flight crew may be declared temporarily or permanently unfit, depending upon the severity and extent of disability, affecting performance in flight.

2. **Existing procedure for declaration of Fitness/Unfitness by medical assessor** - Flight crew may be made temporarily unfit at any of the Medical centers with advice for undergoing defective treatment and / or opinion of concerned specialist. The Previous Medical Record (PMRs) along with the latest CA-34 and 35 are submitted to DMS (CA) in the Office of the DGCA for approval of the recommendations at the medical centers. The DMS (CA) may change / modify the recommendations of the medical centre, under advice on record from DGMS (Air). The concept of medical assessor and medical examiner emanates from the ICAO document Annex 1 Personal Licensing Chapter 1 Definitions and General Rules Concerning Licences. The document defines the Medical Assessor as a physician qualified and experienced in the practice of aviation medicine who evaluates medical reports submitted to the Licensing Authority by medical examiners. The Medical Examiner is defined as a physician with training in aviation medicine and practical knowledge and experience of the aviation environment, who is designated by the Licensing Authority to conduct medical examinations of fitness of applicants for licences or ratings for which medical requirements are prescribed.

3. Flight crew may also be declared permanently unfit for flying duties due to presence of a medical disability by Medical centers, subject to approval by DMS (CA) in the Office of the DGCA under advice on record from DGMS (Air). Conversely, aircrew declared fit by a Medical center may also be declared unfit by the DMS (CA) under advice on record from DGMS (Air), depending upon the adverse aero-medical implications of the disability. Flight crew declared permanently unfit have a right to appeal against the decision of the DMS (CA).

4. **Proposed system of appeal**

- (i) DMS (CA) in the medical assessment process in DGCA, may agree with the fitness opinion of the medical centre and declare a candidate fit for flying. Such cases do not pose any problem.
- (ii) However, in cases where DMS (CA) differs with the assessment given by the Medical center conducting the medical examination (cases declared fit by the medical center are assessed unfit by the medical assessor); such cases will be referred to a committee for final disposal before being declared unfit. The committee to be appointed by Director General (Civil Aviation) shall consist of representatives from the office of DGCA and the DGMS (Air) along with the DMS (CA) who will deliberate and record the reasons for their decision. The decision of the committee shall be final and informed in writing to the candidate. The system of review by the Committee will also be applicable in cases though it occurs infrequently where a candidate declared unfit by the medical center is assessed fit by DMS(CA).

(iii) **Procedure for Appeal Medical Examination**

- (a) In the event of a aircrew being declared temporarily medically unfit for more than three months at a stretch or in aggregate or permanently unfit for issue or renewal of the license, the applicant may appeal to the DGCA for a review of the medical assessment within a period of 90 days from the date of applicant having been declared unfit. The appeal has to be accompanied with the opinion of two senior / eminent specialists of the concerned discipline. The need for this opinion of two senior specialists is that the flight crew must be convinced of the presence / absence of the disability, for which he has been declared permanently unfit. The civilian specialists may comment on the severity and presence or absence of disability; however fitness for flying duties can only be opined by DMS (CA) in the Office of the DGCA. The

appeal shall be addressed to the Director General of Civil Aviation, Technical Centre, Opposite Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110 003 (Attention: Director Medical Services (Civil Aviation)). The appeal shall be sent by registered post with acknowledgement due or may be delivered in person to the Receipt & Despatch Section in the O/o DGCA and obtain a receipt for the same.

- (b) The appeal must be accompanied by all documents in original obtained by the applicant from reputed medical institutions/ specialists clearly certifying the presence or absence of the disability, with specific reference to the cause of unfitness stated in the medical assessment issued by the Office of the DGCA. The medical practitioner/ specialist certifying the fitness in such a case should give sound reasons justifying his opinion, reports of the medical examination and results of investigations, in original, must be attached with the documents. For a particular disability, the personal opinion of a senior specialist does not change the disposal / fitness status of flight crew during the evaluation at DGCA. The presence or absence of a disability is the only finding the specialist is expected to opine upon and not the fitness for flying duties.
- (c) The appeal file shall be referred to DGMS (Air); if adequate medical evidence is provided for medical review, DGMS (Air) may recommend on the file an appeal / review medical examination at an annotated place and may also ask for any such investigation / report or opinion of any specialist to determine the fitness of the applicant. If the medical review is accepted, it shall be carried out at the centre specified for the purpose. The fresh medical examination reports will be considered to assess the medical fitness of the candidate. The result thereof shall be intimated to the office of the DGCA and the final assessment shall be issued accordingly by DGCA. The final assessment in such appeal cases will also be reviewed by a Committee as set up under para (2) above.

5. In case the opinion of senior civilian specialists confirms the presence of the disability, the DMS (CA) may deny another review at a DGCA Medical Centre, to avoid infructuous expense and paper work.

6. Certain candidates may also be made permanently unfit on account of false declaration in Part I of the CA-34. Filing false information / deliberately hiding information with a malicious intention may result in a candidate being declared permanently unfit, without bias for further legal / disciplinary action, as defined in Rule 39A of the Aircraft Rule 1937, as follows.

“Disqualification from holding or obtaining a licence – (1) Where the licensing authority is satisfied, after giving him an opportunity of being heard, that any person

(a) – (d)

(e) has obtained the licence, rating, aircraft type rating or extension of aircraft type rating, or renewal of any of them, by suppression of material information or on the basis of wrong information

Candidates are advised to carefully read the declaration in CA-34, prior to signing it, during medical examinations.

On appeal in case of being declared permanently unfit under Rule 39-A as above, such candidates will be referred to a committee of officers DGCA as may be set up by Director General (Civil Aviation) to decide on the appeal.

7. In all the above cases where appeals are filed, speaking order shall be passed by DMS (CA) after decisions of the committee set up for such purposes.

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