



EASA
European Aviation Safety Agency

Pilot Support Programme

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Background

- Lack of knowledge and benefits of PSP
- Acceptable, effective and cost efficient means to improve safety level
- Encourages reporting from peers
- Helps against stigmatisation of mental illness by providing information on very high success rate
- Strong support from stakeholders
- Close the loop with the competent authority



Objectives

- Create an environment that encourages and is supportive of pilot voluntary self-reporting
- Provide opportunity for a pilot to disclose a mental fitness concern and if appropriate, receive temporary relief from flight duties
- Mitigate risk of fear of loss of licence
- Avoid stigmatisation
- Communicate high success rates of existing support programmes



Regulatory proposal (draft IR and AMC)

New IR in CAT.GEN.MPA.215: Operator to enable, facilitate and ensure **access** to a support programme that will assist and support flight crew members in recognising, coping with and overcoming any problem which might negatively affect their ability to perform their duties. Such access shall be made available to all flight crew members.

4 AMCs on functioning of the support programme:

- enable self-declaration
- confidentiality and protection of data
- link to SMS
- training and education
- risks relating to fear of licence (wrt BEA report)



Regulatory proposal (draft GM)

5 GMs on functioning of support programme

- Cooperation between management, peers and representative organisations
- Non-punitive operator policy
- Expertise, e.g. staff with medical training
- Content of training
- Limitation of the financial consequences of loss of licence (BEA report)
- Possibility to sub-contract running of the programme to a third party



Key points

- Applies to flight crew
- High success rates and cost efficient
- Confidentiality vs immediate safety threat
- All parties are involved
- Linked to SMS, but only via anonymised data
- Appropriate expertise & training of personnel involved
- Especially for small operators outsourcing to 3rd party service providers is a viable option



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