



EASA
European Aviation Safety Agency

Psychologic/psychiatric evaluation as part of class 1 medical examination

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Background

- ▶ The existing mental health assessment was identified as insufficient by several stakeholders in the last few years
- ▶ Several Member States, EASA's Germanwings Task Force, Aviation Medicine Associations (ESAM, AsMA) made the recommendation to strengthen the mental health assessment of flight crew
- ▶ After studying their recommendation, EASA aims at addressing the safety issues by proposing several additions to the existing requirements on mental health assessment



Objective

- Strengthen the mental health assessment for applicants and holders of class 1 medical certificates by enhancing the psychiatric and psychologic evaluation during the **initial** and **recurrent** class 1 medical examination



Key points (I)

- **Enhanced** mental health evaluation **performed either** by the **AME** or a psychiatrist → **NAA** to decide
- Psychiatric evaluation for **recurrent** class 1 medical examination:
 - **risk based** psychiatric evaluation
 - limitations and conditions as **determined by NAA**
- **Psychologic evaluation** as part of, or complementary to, **the psychiatric evaluation**



Key points (II)

Items to be covered during the enhanced psychiatric and psychological assessment:

- medical history
- family history of psychiatric disorders, particularly suicide
- appearance, attitude, behavior, mood, speech, thoughts process and content, perception, cognition, insight and judgement
- current stressors including family, financial, employer, and bereavement
- use of alcohol or other psychoactive substances
- stress coping techniques
- difficulties with operational crew resource management (CRM)



Regulatory proposal (draft IR, AMC & GM)

Implementing Rules amending MED.A.010 and MED.B.055 to include:

- the definition for Medical History
- enhanced psychiatric evaluation as part of initial class 1 medical examination
- psychiatric evaluation for applicants with an established medical history and clinical diagnosis of a psychiatric condition

AMC/GM to MED.B.055 and MED.B.060 added to give more details on the aspects to be taken into consideration by the AMEs or psychiatrist/psychologists performing the initial and recurrent class 1 psychiatric/psychologic evaluation

AMC/GM to ARA.MED.135(a) amended to retrieve more information on personal and family mental health history



Conclusion

- The proposed principles are meant to create the framework for an improved mental health assessment, but in the same time to allow the Member States the freedom to tailor it to their own needs and to the national health system, in order to achieve the best possible performance
- The self declaration part of the assessment will be also enhanced, by amending questions relating to the medical history of psychiatric conditions, in the 'Application form for a medical certificate'
- To cover all angles, AME training will include communications and interview techniques as well as psychologic evaluation techniques



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