

# DRUGS & ALCOHOL TESTING

German Aviation Association (BDL)

EASA Aircrew Medical Fitness Workshop | Cologne | 7 December 2015

## Framework



## Testing of pilots for medication, drugs and alcohol



Initial



With due case




Post-incident/accident



Follow-up



Random

 The US programme currently comprises around 100,000 commercial pilots. Approximately 57,000 of them undergo random testing.

## Medication and drug testing

Each year, around 45,000 commercial pilots are randomly tested for consumption of medication and drugs.




On average, 22 pilots, or 0.05%, test positive.

## Alcohol testing

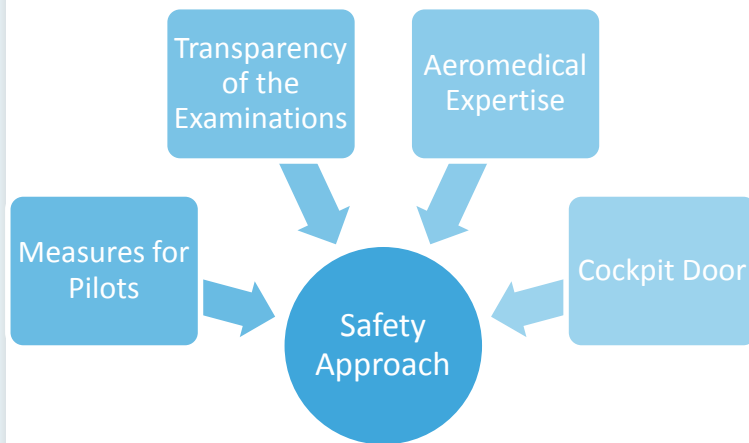
Each year, around 12,000 commercial pilots are randomly tested for consumption of alcohol.

On average, 12 pilots, or 0.1%, test positive.

 Each year, 34 pilots are tested positive for medication, drugs and alcohol.

-  Compared with the specified failure probability for aircraft systems, random testing in the USA is justified by the relevant number of positive tests, in addition to the cited deterrent effect.
-  If applied to commercial aviation here, it is reasonable to assume a comparable situation. We therefore argue that random testing for medication, drugs and alcohol should be introduced for EU airline pilots.
-  **These tests should be conducted by the authorities.**

### Framework



- At the same time, we wish to underline the call for random testing to be organised in such a way that a realistic balance is achieved between the safety benefit and the cost/manpower required.
- It is also important to re-emphasise that the investment of financial and human resources should also **focus on the provision of peer support**.
- Unilateral approaches to this safety-relevant issue should be avoided. The best policy, in our view, is therefore to introduce such random testing at the European level.



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Thank you!



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