



European Aviation Safety Agency

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

**NPA 2012-18 (B.II)**

RMT.0153 & RMT.0154 (ATM.003(a)&(b))

**Licensing and medical certification  
of air traffic controllers**

**NPA 2012-18 (B.II)**

**Part-ATCO.MED**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SUBPART A – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>3</b>
ATCO.MED.A.001 Competent authority	3
ATCO.MED.A.005 Scope	3
ATCO.MED.A.010 Definitions	3
ATCO.MED.A.015 Medical confidentiality	4
ATCO.MED.A.020 Decrease in medical fitness	4
ATCO.MED.A.025 Obligations of AeMC and AME	4
ATCO.MED.A.030 Medical certificates	5
ATCO.MED.A.035 Application for a medical certificate	5
ATCO.MED.A.040 Issue, revalidation and renewal of medical certificates	5
ATCO.MED.A.045 Validity, revalidation and renewal of medical certificates	6
ATCO.MED.A.050 Referral	7
<b>SUBPART B – REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES</b>	<b>8</b>
ATCO.MED.B.001 Limitations to medical certificates	8
ATCO.MED.B.015 Respiratory system	11
ATCO.MED.B.020 Digestive system	12
ATCO.MED.B.025 Metabolic and endocrine systems	12
ATCO.MED.B.030 Haematology	12
ATCO.MED.B.035 Genito-urinary system	13
ATCO.MED.B.040 Infectious disease	13
ATCO.MED.B.045 Obstetrics and gynaecology	13
ATCO.MED.B.050 Musculoskeletal system	14
ATCO.MED.B.055 Psychiatry	14
ATCO.MED.B.060 Psychology	14
ATCO.MED.B.065 Neurology	14
ATCO.MED.B.070 Visual system	15
ATCO.MED.B.075 Colour vision	16
ATCO.MED.B.080 Otorhinolaryngology	16
ATCO.MED.B.085 Dermatology	17
ATCO.MED.B.090 Oncology	17
<b>SUBPART C – AERO-MEDICAL EXAMINERS (AMEs)</b>	<b>18</b>
ATCO.MED.C.001 Privileges	18
ATCO.MED.C.005 Application	18
ATCO.MED.C.010 Requirements for the issue of an AME certificate	18
ATCO.MED.C.015 Training courses in aviation medicine	19
ATCO.MED.C.020 Changes to the AME certificate	19
ATCO.MED.C.025 Validity of AME certificates	19

**PART-ATCO.MED**  
**MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS**

**SUBPART A — GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**SECTION 1**  
**GENERAL**

**ATCO.MED.A.001 Competent authority**

For the purpose of this Part, the competent authority shall be:

- (a) for aero-medical centres (AeMCs):
  - (1) the authority designated by the Member State where the AeMC has its principal place of business;
  - (2) the Agency, when the AeMC is located in a third country.
- (b) for aero-medical examiners (AMEs):
  - (1) the authority designated by the Member State where the AMEs have their principal place of practice;
  - (2) if the principal place of practice of an AME is located in a third country, the authority designated by the Member State to which he/she applies for the issue of the certificate.

**ATCO.MED.A.005 Scope**

This Part establishes the requirements for:

- (a) the issue, validity, revalidation and renewal of the medical certificate required for exercising the privileges of an air traffic controller licence or of a student air traffic controller licence; and
- (b) the certification of AMEs to issue Class 3 medical certificates.

**ATCO.MED.A.010 Definitions**

For the purpose of this Part, the following definitions apply:

'Accredited medical conclusion' means the conclusion reached by one or more medical experts acceptable to the licensing authority, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, for the purposes of the case concerned, in consultation with operational experts or other experts as necessary.

'Assessment' means the conclusion on the medical fitness of a person based on the evaluation of the person's medical history and/or aero-medical examinations as required in this Part and further examinations as necessary, and/or medical tests such as, but not limited to, ECG, blood pressure measurement, blood testing, X-ray.

'Eye specialist' means an ophthalmologist or a vision care specialist qualified in optometry and trained to recognise pathological conditions.

'Examination' — inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation or other means of investigation especially for determining the medical fitness to exercise the privileges of the licence.

'Investigation' means the assessment of a suspected pathological condition of an applicant by means of examinations and tests to verify the presence or absence of a medical condition.

'Licensing authority' means the competent authority of the Member State that issued the licence, or to which a person applies for the issue of a licence, or, when a person has not yet applied for the issue of a licence, the competent authority in accordance with this Part.

'Limitation' means a condition placed on the medical certificate that shall be complied with whilst exercising the privileges of the licence.

'Refractive error' means the deviation from emmetropia measured in dioptres in the most ametropic meridian, measured by standard methods.

#### **ATCO.MED.A.015 Medical confidentiality**

All persons involved in medical examination, assessment and certification shall ensure that medical confidentiality is respected at all times.

#### **ATCO.MED.A.020 Decrease in medical fitness**

- (a) Licence holders shall not exercise the privileges of their licence and related ratings or certificates at any time when they:
- (1) are aware of any decrease in their medical fitness which might render them unable to safely exercise those privileges;
  - (2) take or use any prescribed or non-prescribed medication which is likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence;
  - (3) receive any medical, surgical or other treatment that is likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence.
- (b) In addition, licence holders shall, without undue delay, seek aero-medical advice when they:
- (1) have undergone a surgical operation or invasive procedure;
  - (2) have commenced the regular use of any medication;
  - (3) have suffered any significant personal injury involving any incapacity to exercise the privileges of the licence;
  - (4) have been suffering from any significant illness involving any incapacity to exercise the privileges of the licence;
  - (5) are pregnant;
  - (6) have been admitted to hospital or medical clinic;
  - (7) first require correcting lenses.

In these cases the AeMC or AME shall assess the medical fitness of the licence holder and decide whether he/she is fit to resume the exercise of his/her privileges.

#### **ATCO.MED.A.025 Obligations of AeMC and AME**

- (a) When conducting medical examinations and assessments, the AeMC or AME shall:
- (1) ensure that communication with the person can be established without language barriers;
  - (2) make the person aware of the consequences of providing incomplete, inaccurate or false statements on their medical history.

- (b) After completion of the aero-medical examinations and assessment, the AeMC and AME shall:
  - (1) advise the person whether fit, unfit or is referred to the licensing authority;
  - (2) inform the person of the consequences of any limitation placed on the medical certificate;
  - (3) if the person has been assessed as unfit, inform him/her of his/her right of a secondary review; and
  - (4) submit without delay a signed, or electronically authenticated, report to include the assessment result and a copy of the medical certificate to the licensing authority.
- (c) AeMCs and AMEs shall maintain records with details of medical examinations and assessments performed in accordance with this Part and their results in accordance with national legislation.
- (d) When required for medical certification and/or oversight functions, AeMCs and AMEs shall submit to the medical assessor of the competent authority upon request all aero-medical records and reports, and any other relevant information.

## **SECTION 2 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

### **ATCO.MED.A.030 Medical certificates**

- (a) Applicants for and holders of an air traffic controller licence, or student air traffic controller licence, shall hold a Class 3 medical certificate.
- (b) A licence holder shall not at any time hold more than one medical certificate issued in accordance with this Part.

### **ATCO.MED.A.035 Application for a medical certificate**

- (a) Applications for a medical certificate shall be made in a format established by the competent authority.
- (b) Applicants for a medical certificate shall provide the AeMC or AME with:
  - (1) proof of their identity;
  - (2) a signed declaration:
    - (i) of medical facts concerning their medical history;
    - (ii) as to whether they have previously undergone an examination for a medical certificate and, if so, by whom and with what result;
    - (iii) as to whether they have ever been assessed as unfit or had a medical certificate suspended or revoked.
- (c) When applying for a revalidation or renewal of the medical certificate, applicants shall present the medical certificate to the AeMC or AME prior to the relevant examinations.

### **ATCO.MED.A.040 Issue, revalidation and renewal of medical certificates**

- (a) A medical certificate shall only be issued, revalidated or renewed once the required medical examinations and assessments have been completed and a fit assessment is made.
- (b) *Initial issue*  
Initial Class 3 medical certificates shall be issued by an AeMC.

(c) *Revalidation and renewal*

Class 3 medical certificates shall be revalidated or renewed by an AeMC or an AME.

(d) The AeMC or AME shall only issue, revalidate or renew a medical certificate if:

- (1) the applicant has provided them with a complete medical history and, if required by the AeMC or AME, results of medical examinations and tests conducted by the applicant's physician or any medical specialists; and
- (2) the AeMC or AME have conducted the aero-medical assessment based on the medical examinations and tests as required to verify that the applicant complies with all the relevant requirements of this Part.

(e) The AME, AeMC or, in the case of referral, the licensing authority may require the applicant to undergo additional medical examinations and investigations when clinically indicated before they issue, revalidate or renew a medical certificate.

(f) The licensing authority may issue or reissue a medical certificate, as applicable, if:

- (1) a case is referred;
- (2) it has identified that corrections to the information on the certificate are necessary.

**ATCO.MED.A.045 Validity, revalidation and renewal of medical certificates**

(a) *Validity*

- (1) Class 3 medical certificates shall be valid for a period of 24 months.
- (2) The period of validity of Class 3 medical certificates shall be reduced to 12 months for licence holders who have reached the age of 40. A medical certificate issued prior to reaching the age of 40 shall cease to be valid when the licence holder reaches the age of 41.
- (3) The validity period of a medical certificate, including any associated examination or special investigation, shall be:
  - (i) determined by the age of the applicant at the date when the medical examination takes place; and
  - (ii) calculated from the date of the medical examination in the case of initial issue and renewal, and from the expiry date of the previous medical certificate in the case of revalidation.

(b) *Revalidation*

Examinations and assessments for the revalidation of a medical certificate may be undertaken up to 45 days prior to the expiry date of the medical certificate.

(c) *Renewal*

- (1) If the holder of a medical certificate does not comply with (b), a renewal examination and assessment shall be required.
- (2) If the medical certificate has expired for:
  - (i) less than 2 years, the renewal examination shall be conducted following the rules and assessment criteria of a revalidation examination;
  - (ii) more than 2 years, the AeMC or AME shall only conduct the renewal examination after assessment of the aero-medical records of the applicant;
  - (iii) more than 5 years, the examination requirements for initial issue shall apply and the assessment shall be based on the revalidation requirements.

**ATCO.MED.A.050 Referral**

If an applicant for a Class 3 medical certificate is referred to the licensing authority in accordance with MED.B.001, the AeMC or AME shall transfer the relevant medical documentation to the licensing authority.

**SUBPART B – REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR  
TRAFFIC CONTROLLER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

**SECTION 1  
GENERAL**

**ATCO.MED.B.001 Limitations to medical certificates**

(a) *Limitations to Class 3 medical certificates*

- (1) If the applicant does not fully comply with the requirements for a Class 3 medical certificate but is considered to be not likely to jeopardise flight safety, the AeMC or AME shall:
  - (i) refer the decision on fitness of the applicant to the licensing authority as indicated in this Subpart; or
  - (ii) in cases where a referral to the licensing authority is not indicated in this Subpart, evaluate whether the applicant is able to perform his/her duties safely when complying with one or more limitations endorsed on the medical certificate, and issue the medical certificate with limitation(s) as necessary.
  - (iii) The AeMC or AME may revalidate or renew a medical certificate with the same limitation without referring the applicant to the licensing authority.

(b) When assessing whether a limitation is necessary, particular consideration shall be given to:

- (1) whether accredited medical conclusion indicates that in special circumstances the applicant's failure to meet any requirement, whether numerical or otherwise, is such that exercise of the privileges of the licence applied for is not likely to jeopardise flight safety;
- (2) the applicant's ability, skill and experience relevant to the operation to be performed.

(c) *Operational limitations*

- (1) The competent authority, in conjunction with the air navigation service provider, shall determine the operational limitations applicable in the specific operational environment concerned.
- (2) Appropriate operational limitations shall only be placed on the medical certificate by the licensing authority.

(d) Any other limitations may be imposed on the holder of a medical certificate by an AME or AeMC if required.

(e) Any limitation imposed on the holder of a medical certificate shall be specified therein.

**SECTION 2  
MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS 3 MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

**ATCO.MED.B.005 General**

(a) Applicants for a medical certificate shall be free from any:

- (1) abnormality, congenital or acquired;
- (2) active, latent, acute or chronic disease or disability;
- (3) wound, injury or sequelae from operation;
- (4) effect or side effect of any prescribed or non-prescribed therapeutic, diagnostic or preventive medication taken



that would entail a degree of functional incapacity which is likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence or could render the applicant likely to become suddenly unable to exercise the privileges of the licence safely.

- (b) In cases where the decision on medical fitness of an applicant for a Class 3 medical certificate is referred to the licensing authority, this authority may delegate such a decision to an AeMC, except in cases where an operational limitation is needed.

**ATCO.MED.B.010 Cardiovascular system**

(a) *Examination*

- (1) A standard 12-lead resting electrocardiogram (ECG) and report shall be completed at the examination for the initial issue of a medical certificate and then:
  - (i) every 4 years until the age of 30;
  - (ii) at all revalidation or renewal examinations thereafter; and
  - (iii) on clinical indication.
- (2) An extended cardiovascular assessment shall be completed:
  - (i) at the first revalidation or renewal examination after the age of 65;
  - (ii) every 4 years thereafter; and
  - (iii) when clinically indicated.
- (3) Estimation of serum lipids, including cholesterol, shall be required at the examination for the initial issue of a medical certificate, at the first examination after having reached the age of 40, and when clinically indicated.

(b) *Cardiovascular system – General*

- (1) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate with any of the following conditions shall be assessed as unfit:
  - (i) aneurysm of the thoracic or supra-renal abdominal aorta, before or after surgery;
  - (ii) significant functional abnormality of any of the heart valves;
  - (iii) heart or heart/lung transplantation.
- (2) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate with an established history or diagnosis of any of the following conditions shall be referred to the licensing authority before a fit assessment can be considered:
  - (i) peripheral arterial disease before or after surgery;
  - (ii) aneurysm of the infra-renal abdominal aorta, before or after surgery;
  - (iii) functionally insignificant cardiac valvular abnormalities;
  - (iv) after cardiac valve surgery;
  - (v) abnormality of the pericardium, myocardium or endocardium;
  - (vi) congenital abnormality of the heart, before or after corrective surgery;
  - (vii) recurrent vasovagal syncope;
  - (viii) arterial or venous thrombosis;
  - (ix) pulmonary embolism;
  - (x) cardiovascular condition requiring systemic anticoagulant therapy.

(c) *Blood pressure*

- (1) Blood pressure shall be recorded on both arms at each examination.
  - (2) Applicant's blood pressure shall be within normal limits.
  - (3) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate:
    - (i) with symptomatic hypotension; or
    - (ii) whose blood pressure at examination consistently exceeds 160 mmHg systolic and/or 95 mmHg diastolic, with or without treatmentshall be assessed as unfit.
  - (4) The initiation of medication for the control of blood pressure shall require a period of temporary suspension of the medical certificate to establish the absence of significant side effects.
- (d) *Coronary Artery Disease*
- (1) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate with:
    - (i) suspected myocardial ischaemia;
    - (ii) asymptomatic minor coronary artery disease requiring no anti-anginal treatmentshall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo cardiological evaluation to exclude myocardial ischaemia before a fit assessment can be considered.
  - (2) Applicants with any of the following conditions shall be assessed as unfit:
    - (i) symptomatic coronary artery disease;
    - (ii) symptoms of coronary artery disease controlled by medication.
  - (3) Applicants with a history or diagnosis of:
    - (i) myocardial ischaemia;
    - (ii) myocardial infarction;
    - (iii) revascularisation and stenting for coronary artery diseaseshall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo a cardiological evaluation before a fit assessment can be considered.
- (e) *Rhythm/Conduction disturbances*
- (1) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate with any significant disturbance of cardiac conduction or rhythm, intermittent or established, including any of the following:
    - (i) disturbance of supraventricular rhythm, including sinoatrial dysfunction, atrial fibrillation and/or flutter and asymptomatic sinus pauses;
    - (ii) complete left bundle branch block;
    - (iii) Mobitz type 2 atrioventricular block;
    - (iv) broad and/or narrow complex tachycardia;
    - (v) ventricular pre-excitation;
    - (vi) asymptomatic QT prolongation;
    - (vii) Brugada pattern on electrocardiographyshall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo cardiological evaluation with satisfactory results before a fit assessment can be considered.
  - (2) Applicants with any of the following:

- (i) incomplete bundle branch block;
- (ii) complete right bundle branch block;
- (iii) stable left axis deviation;
- (iv) asymptomatic sinus bradycardia;
- (v) asymptomatic sinus tachycardia;
- (vi) asymptomatic isolated uniform supra-ventricular or ventricular ectopic complexes;
- (vii) first degree atrioventricular block;
- (viii) Mobitz type 1 atrioventricular block

may be assessed as fit in the absence of any other abnormality and subject to satisfactory cardiological evaluation.

(3) Applicants with a history of:

- (i) ablation therapy;
- (ii) pacemaker implantation

shall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo cardiological evaluation with satisfactory results before a fit assessment can be considered.

(4) Applicants with any of the following conditions shall be assessed as unfit:

- (i) symptomatic sinoatrial disease;
- (ii) complete atrioventricular block;
- (iii) symptomatic QT prolongation;
- (iv) an automatic implantable defibrillating system;
- (v) a ventricular anti-tachycardia pacemaker.

**ATCO.MED.B.015 Respiratory system**

(a) Applicants for a Class 3 medical certificate with significant impairment of pulmonary function shall be referred to the licensing authority for the aero-medical assessment. A fit assessment may be considered once pulmonary function has recovered and is satisfactory.

(b) *Examination*

Pulmonary function tests are required at the initial examination and on clinical indication.

(c) Applicants with a history or established diagnosis of:

- (1) asthma requiring medication;
- (2) active inflammatory disease of the respiratory system;
- (3) active sarcoidosis;
- (4) pneumothorax;
- (5) sleep apnoea syndrome;
- (6) major thoracic surgery

shall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo respiratory evaluation with a satisfactory result before a fit assessment can be considered.

**ATCO.MED.B.020 Digestive system**

- (a) Applicants with any sequelae of disease or surgical intervention in any part of the digestive tract or its adnexa likely to cause incapacitation, in particular any obstruction due to stricture or compression, shall be assessed as unfit.
- (b) Applicants shall be free from herniae that might give rise to incapacitating symptoms.
- (c) Applicants with disorders of the gastrointestinal system including:
  - (1) recurrent dyspeptic disorder requiring medication;
  - (2) pancreatitis;
  - (3) symptomatic gallstones;
  - (4) an established diagnosis or history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease;
  - (5) herniae that may give rise to complications leading to incapacitation;
  - (6) after surgical operation on the digestive tract or its adnexa, including surgery involving total or partial excision or a diversion of any of these organs

shall be referred to the licensing authority. A fit assessment can be considered subject to a satisfactory gastrointestinal evaluation after successful treatment or full recovery after surgery.

**ATCO.MED.B.025 Metabolic and endocrine systems**

- (a) Applicants with metabolic, nutritional or endocrine dysfunction may be assessed as fit subject to demonstrated stability of the condition and satisfactory aero-medical evaluation.
- (b) *Diabetes mellitus*
  - (1) Applicants with diabetes mellitus requiring insulin shall be assessed as unfit.
  - (2) Applicants with diabetes mellitus requiring medication other than insulin for blood sugar control shall be referred to the licensing authority. A fit assessment may be considered if it can be demonstrated that blood sugar control has been achieved and is stable.

**ATCO.MED.B.030 Haematology**

- (a) Blood testing, if any, shall be determined by the AME or AeMC taking into account the medical history and following the physical examination.
- (b) Applicants with a haematological condition, such as:
  - (1) coagulation, haemorrhagic or thrombotic disorder;
  - (2) chronic leukaemia;
  - (3) abnormal haemoglobin, including, but not limited to, anaemia, polycythaemia or haemoglobinopathy;
  - (4) significant localised or generalised lymphatic enlargement;
  - (5) enlargement of the spleen

shall be referred to the licensing authority. A fit assessment can be considered subject to satisfactory aero-medical evaluation.

- (c) Applicants suffering from acute leukaemia shall be assessed as unfit.

**ATCO.MED.B.035 Genito-urinary system**

- (a) Urinalysis shall form part of every aero-medical examination. The urine shall contain no abnormal element considered to be of pathological significance.
- (b) Applicants with any sequela of disease or surgical procedures on the kidneys or the urinary tract likely to cause incapacitation, in particular any obstruction due to stricture or compression, shall be assessed as unfit.
- (c) Applicants with a genito-urinary disorder, such as:
  - (1) renal disease;
  - (2) one or more urinary calculimay be assessed as fit subject to satisfactory renal/urological evaluation.
- (d) Applicants who have undergone:
  - (1) a major surgical operation in the urinary apparatus involving a total or partial excision or a diversion of its organs; or
  - (2) major urological surgeryshall be referred to the licensing authority for an aero-medical assessment after full recovery before a fit assessment can be considered.

**ATCO.MED.B.040 Infectious disease**

- (a) Applicants who are HIV positive shall be referred to the licensing authority and may be assessed as fit subject to satisfactory specialist evaluation and provided the licensing authority has sufficient evidence that the therapy does not compromise the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence.
- (b) Applicants diagnosed with or presenting symptoms of infectious disease such as:
  - (1) acute syphilis;
  - (2) active tuberculosis;
  - (3) infectious hepatitis;
  - (4) tropical diseasesshall be referred to the licensing authority for an aero-medical assessment. A fit assessment may be considered after full recovery and specialist evaluation provided the licensing authority has sufficient evidence that the therapy does not compromise the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence.

**ATCO.MED.B.045 Obstetrics and gynaecology**

- (a) Applicants who have undergone a major gynaecological operation shall be assessed as unfit until full recovery.
- (b) *Pregnancy*  
In the case of pregnancy, if the AeMC or AME consider that the licence holder is fit to exercise her privileges, he/she shall limit the validity period of the medical certificate to the end of the 34th week of gestation. After this point, the certificate shall be suspended. The suspension shall be lifted after full recovery following the end of the pregnancy.

**ATCO.MED.B.050 Musculoskeletal system**

Applicants shall have satisfactory functional use of the musculoskeletal system. Applicants with arthritic and muscular tendon progressive conditions shall be referred to the licensing authority. A fit assessment may be considered after satisfactory specialist evaluation.

**ATCO.MED.B.055 Psychiatry**

- (a) Applicants with a history of abuse of alcohol or use of psychoactive, including recreational substances with or without dependency, shall be assessed as unfit until after a period of documented sobriety or freedom from substance use and subject to satisfactory psychiatric evaluation after successful treatment. Applicants shall be referred to the licensing authority for the assessment of their medical fitness.
- (b) Applicants with a psychiatric condition such as:
  - (1) mood disorder;
  - (2) neurotic disorder;
  - (3) personality disorder;
  - (4) mental or behavioural disordershall undergo satisfactory psychiatric evaluation before a fit assessment can be made. Applicants shall be referred to the licensing authority for the assessment of their medical fitness.
- (c) Applicants with a history of a single or repeated acts of deliberate self-harm shall be assessed as unfit. Applicants shall be referred to the licensing authority and shall undergo satisfactory psychiatric evaluation before a fit assessment can be considered.
- (d) Applicants with an established history or clinical diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizotypal, delusional disorder or mania shall be assessed as unfit.

**ATCO.MED.B.060 Psychology**

- (a) Applicants who present with stress-related symptoms that are likely to interfere with their ability to exercise the privileges of the licence safely shall be referred to the licensing authority. A fit assessment may only be considered after a psychological and/or psychiatric evaluation has demonstrated that the applicant has recovered from stress-related symptoms.
- (b) A psychological evaluation may be required as part of, or complementary to, a specialist psychiatric or neurological examination.

**ATCO.MED.B.065 Neurology**

- (a) Applicants with an established history or clinical diagnosis of:
  - (1) epilepsy except in cases in (b)(1) and (2) below;
  - (2) recurring episodes of disturbance of consciousness of uncertain cause;
  - (3) conditions with a high propensity for cerebral dysfunctionshall be assessed as unfit.
- (b) Applicants with an established history or clinical diagnosis of:
  - (1) epilepsy without recurrence after the age of 5;
  - (2) epilepsy without recurrence and off all treatment for more than 10 years;
  - (3) epileptiform EEG abnormalities and focal slow waves;

- (4) progressive or non-progressive disease of the nervous system;
- (5) disturbances or loss of consciousness;
- (6) brain injury;
- (7) spinal or peripheral nerve injury

shall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo further evaluation before a fit assessment can be considered.

**ATCO.MED.B.070 Visual system**

- (a) Applicants shall not possess any abnormality of the function of the eyes or their adnexa or any active pathological condition, congenital or acquired, acute or chronic, or any sequelae of eye surgery or trauma, which is likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence(s).
- (b) Examination
  - (1) A comprehensive eye examination shall form part of the initial examination and be undertaken periodically depending on the refraction and the functional performance of the eye.
  - (2) A routine eye examination shall form part of all revalidation and renewal examinations.
  - (3) Applicants shall undergo tonometry at the first revalidation examination after the age of 40, on clinical indication and if indicated considering the family history.
  - (4) Applicants shall supply the AeMC or AME with an ophthalmic examination report in cases where:
    - (i) the functional performance shows significant changes;
    - (ii) the distant visual standards can only be reached with corrective lenses;
  - (5) Applicants with a high refractive error shall be referred to the licensing authority.
- (c) Distant visual acuity, with or without optimal correction, shall be 6/9 (0,7) or better in each eye separately, and visual acuity with both eyes shall be 6/6 (1,0) or better.
- (d) Initial applicants having monocular or functional monocular vision including eye muscle balance problems shall be assessed as unfit. At revalidation or renewal examinations the applicant may be assessed as fit provided that an ophthalmological examination is satisfactory. The applicant shall be referred to the licensing authority.
- (e) Initial applicants with acquired substandard vision in one eye shall be assessed as unfit. At revalidation or renewal examinations the applicant shall be referred to the licensing authority and may be assessed as fit provided that an ophthalmological examination is satisfactory.
- (f) Applicants shall have a visual acuity of at least 7/10 (6/9) at 30–50 cm and 60–100 cm distance, if necessary with the aid of correction.
- (g) Applicants shall have normal fields of vision and normal binocular function.
- (h) Applicants who have undergone eye surgery shall be assessed as unfit until full recovery of the visual function. A fit assessment may be considered by the licensing authority subject to satisfactory ophthalmic evaluation.
- (i) Applicants with a clinical diagnosis of keratoconus shall be referred to the licensing authority and may be assessed as fit subject to a satisfactory examination by an ophthalmologist.
- (j) Applicants with diplopia shall be assessed as unfit.
- (k) *Spectacles and contact lenses*

- (1) If satisfactory visual function for the rated duties is achieved only with the use of correction, the spectacles or contact lenses must provide optimal visual function, be well tolerated, and suitable for air traffic control purposes.
- (2) No more than one pair of spectacles, when worn during the exercise of licensed privileges, shall be used to meet the visual requirements at all distances.
- (3) A spare set of similarly correcting spectacles shall be readily available when exercising the privileges of the licence(s).
- (4) Contact lenses, when are worn during the exercise of licensed privileges, shall be mono-focal, non-tinted and not orthokeratological. Monovision contact lenses shall not be used.

**ATCO.MED.B.075 Colour vision**

Applicants shall be normal trichromates.

**ATCO.MED.B.080 Otorhinolaryngology**

(a) *Examination*

- (1) An otorhinolaryngological examination shall form part of all initial, revalidation and renewal examinations.
- (2) Hearing shall be tested at all examinations. The applicant shall understand correctly conversational speech when tested with each ear at a distance of two metres from and with his/her back turned towards the AME.
- (3) Hearing shall be tested with pure tone audiometry at the initial examination and at subsequent revalidation or renewal examinations every four years until the age of 40 and every two years thereafter.
- (4) Pure-tone audiometry:
  - (i) Applicants for initial issue of a medical certificate shall not have a hearing loss of more than 20 dB at any of the frequencies 500, 1 000 or 2 000 Hz, or more than 35 dB at 3 000 Hz, in either ear separately.
  - (ii) Applicants who do not meet the hearing criteria for initial issue of a medical certificate shall undergo a specialist assessment including a speech discrimination test before fit assessment can be considered.
  - (iii) Applicants for a revalidation or renewal of a medical certificate shall not have a hearing loss of more than 35 dB at any of the frequencies 500, 1 000 or 2 000 Hz, or more than 50 dB at 3 000 Hz, in either ear separately.
  - (iv) Applicants who do not meet the hearing criteria for a revalidation or renewal of a medical certificate shall undergo a functional hearing test in the operational environment and specialist assessment before a fit assessment can be considered.
- (5) Applicants who do not meet the hearing criteria in (5)(ii) or (iv) respectively shall be referred to the licensing authority.
- (6) Hearing aids
  - (i) Initial examination: the use of hearing aids entails unfitness.
  - (ii) Revalidation and renewal examinations: a fit assessment may be considered if the use of hearing aid(s) or of an appropriate prosthetic aid improves the hearing to achieve a normal standard as assessed by fully functional testing in the operational environment.



- (iii) If a prosthetic aid is needed to achieve the normal hearing standard, a spare set of the equipment and accessories, such as batteries, shall be available.
- (b) Applicants with:
  - (1) an active pathological process, acute or chronic, of the internal or middle ear;
  - (2) unhealed perforation or dysfunction of the tympanic membrane(s);
  - (3) disturbance of vestibular function;
  - (4) significant malformation or significant, acute or chronic infection of the oral cavity or upper respiratory tract;
  - (5) significant disorder of speech or voice reducing intelligibility

shall be referred to the licensing authority and undergo further ORL examination and assessment to establish that the condition does not interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence.

#### **ATCO.MED.B.085 Dermatology**

Applicants shall have no established dermatological condition likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the licence held.

#### **ATCO.MED.B.090 Oncology**

- (a) Applicants with established primary or secondary malignant disease shall be assessed as unfit.
- (b) After treatment for malignant disease, applicants shall be referred to the licensing authority and shall undergo satisfactory oncological evaluation before a fit assessment can be made.
- (c) Applicants with an established history or clinical diagnosis of malignant intracerebral tumour shall be assessed as unfit.

## **SUBPART C — AERO-MEDICAL EXAMINERS (AMEs)**

### **ATCO.MED.C.001 Privileges**

- (a) In accordance with this Part, the privileges of an AME are to revalidate and renew Class 3 medical certificates, and to conduct the relevant medical examinations and assessments.
- (b) The scope of the privileges of the AME, and any condition thereof, shall be specified in the certificate.
- (c) Holders of a certificate as an AME shall not undertake aero-medical examinations and assessments in a Member State other than the Member State that issued their certificate as an AME, unless they have:
  - (1) been granted access by the host Member State to exercise their professional activities as a specialised doctor;
  - (2) informed the competent authority of the host Member State of their intention to conduct aero-medical examinations and assessments and to issue medical certificates within the scope of their privileges as AME; and
  - (3) received a briefing from the competent authority of the host Member State.

### **ATCO.MED.C.005 Application**

- (a) Application for a certificate as an AME shall be made in a form and manner specified by the competent authority.
- (b) Applicants for an AME certificate shall provide the competent authority with:
  - (1) personal details and professional address;
  - (2) documentation demonstrating that they comply with the requirements established in ATCO.MED.C.010, including the certificate of completion of the training courses in aviation medicine appropriate to the privileges they apply for;
  - (3) a written declaration that the AME will issue medical certificates on the basis of the requirements of this Part.
- (c) When the AME undertakes aero-medical examinations in more than one location, they shall provide the competent authority with relevant information regarding all practice locations and practice facilities.

### **ATCO.MED.C.010 Requirements for the issue of an AME certificate**

Applicants for an AME certificate with the privileges for the revalidation and renewal of Class 3 medical certificates shall:

- (a) be fully qualified and licensed for the practice of medicine and hold a certificate, or have evidence, of completion of specialist training;
- (b) have successfully completed basic and advanced training courses in aviation medicine, including specific modules for the medical assessment of air traffic controllers and the specific environment in air traffic control;
- (c) demonstrate to the competent authority that they:
  - (1) have adequate facilities, procedures, documentation and functioning equipment suitable for aero-medical examinations; and
  - (2) have in place the necessary procedures and conditions to ensure medical confidentiality.

**ATCO.MED.C.015 Training courses in aviation medicine**

- (a) Training courses in aviation medicine shall be approved by the competent authority of the Member State where the organisation providing it has its principal place of business. The organisation providing the course shall demonstrate that the course syllabus is adequate and that the persons in charge of providing the training have adequate knowledge and experience.
- (b) Except in the case of refresher training, the courses shall be concluded by a written examination on the subjects included in the course content.
- (c) The organisation providing the course shall issue a certificate of completion to the applicants when they have obtained a pass in the examination.

**ATCO.MED.C.020 Changes to the AME certificate**

- (a) AMEs shall notify the competent authority of the following changes which could affect their certificate:
  - (1) the AME is subject to disciplinary proceedings or investigation by a medical regulatory body;
  - (2) there are any changes to the conditions on which the certificate was granted, including the content of the statements provided with the application;
  - (3) the requirements for the issue are no longer met;
  - (4) there is a change of aero-medical examiner's practice location(s) or correspondence address.
- (b) Failure to inform the competent authority shall result in the suspension or revocation of the privileges of the certificate, on the basis of the decision of the competent authority that suspends or revokes the certificate.

**ATCO.MED.C.025 Validity of AME certificates**

An AME certificate shall be issued for a period not exceeding 3 years. It shall be revalidated subject to the holder:

- (a) continuing to fulfil the general conditions required for medical practice and maintaining registration as a medical practitioner according to national law;
- (b) undertaking refresher training in aviation medicine and in the working environments of air traffic controllers within the last 3 years;
- (c) having performed at least 10 aero-medical examinations every year. This number of examinations may only be reduced by the competent authority in duly justified circumstances;
- (d) remaining in compliance with the terms of their certificate; and
- (e) exercising their privileges in accordance with this Part.