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Drugs and alcohol screening as part of initial class 1 medical examination

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Background

- Use of alcohol or psychoactive substances leads to impaired judgement and errors in decision making process for physically healthy individuals
- Alcohol and other psychoactive substances are often used by individuals working in a stressful environment as a stress coping tool, leading to habitual use or even addiction
- Post incident/accident or with due cause testing is a reactive approach. It does not proactively prevent accidents/incidents due to impaired judgement



Objectives

- To **strengthen** the policy on **prevention** of **drug** and **alcohol** use or **misuse** among flight crew
- By adding the **screening tests** during the class 1 medical, the Agency is closing the loop in putting in place the **framework** for the Member States to build their **policy** for **prevention** of **drugs** and **alcohol consumption**



Key points

- **List of drugs** to be screened for, more drugs to be added by NAAs based on a risk assessment
- **Confirmation tests** performed in accordance with **national procedure**
- In case of **positive result**, a **psychiatric evaluation** should be undertaken **before a fit assessment** may be considered
- **Support groups** as alternative **therapy and follow-up**



Regulatory proposal (draft IR and AMC/GM)

Implementing Rules amended MED.B.055 to mandate drugs and alcohol screening as part of initial class 1 medical examination

New AMC/GM to MED.B.055 were added to provide minimum list of drugs to be screened for. Additional drugs can be added by the competent authority based on a risk assessment



Conclusions

- Drugs & alcohol screening as part of the initial class 1 aero-medical examination to complete the picture of a proactive approach towards use and misuse of alcohol and other psychoactive substance while exercising the privileges of a pilot licence



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