

# General Directions



**Notice of proposed amendment of general directions**

**Timetable for Routine Examinations**

## **Description of the General Directions *Timing of Routine Examinations***

These General Directions (GD), *Timing of Routine Examinations*, is an updated revision of the published 2009 GD of the same name. Changes from the 2009 GD are:

- Amended schedule of ECG recordings for Class 1, 2 and 3 applicants as medical evidence does generally does not support routine screening by ECG;
- Amended schedule of cardiovascular assessments for all classes, as the CVR estimation calculator used provides a 5-year risk estimation;
- Amended schedule of blood glucose and blood lipid determination for all classes, to generally, coincide with CV risk estimation;
- Amended schedule of formal audiometry assessments for all classes, as a well conducted voice test can reliably detect hearing loss that may be of aeromedical significance. This, excepted for applicants aged over 70 when the scheduled is increased;
- Removal of the requirement to undertake spirometry for first general examination for a Class 2 or Class 3 certificate;
- Requirement to undertake spirometry for Class 1 applicants at age 55 who have smoked in the past 5 years, instead of age 46 and 56 for those who have ever smoked;
- Introduction of a special vision examinations for Class 1 and Class 3 applicants from age 60 onwards, as vision issues are common beyond this age.

# Civil Aviation (Timetable for Routine Examinations)

## General Directions Notice 2021

Pursuant to section 27G of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, the Director, after having consulted, health professionals with aviation medical experience, representative groups within the aviation industry or elsewhere, government departments, and Crown agencies that the Director considers appropriate, gives the following notice.

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### Notice

- 1 Title**  
This notice is the Civil Aviation (Timing of Routine Examinations) General Directions Amendment Notice 2021.
- 2 Commencement**  
This notice comes into force on 3 December 2021

Civil Aviation (Timetable for Routine Examinations) General Directions Notice 2021

**Part 1 — Purpose and interpretation**

**3 Purpose**

The purpose of this notice is to provide general directions for the timing of the examinations that an applicant for a class of medical certificate is routinely required to have as part of the medical examination referred to in section 27D(1) of the Act for that class of medical certificate.

**4 Interpretation**

In these general directions, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Act** means the Civil Aviation Act 1990

**clinical examination** means the physical and mental medical examination of an applicant by a medical examiner

**current age**, in relation to an applicant for a class of medical certificate, means the age of the applicant at the date of the commencement of the general medical examination for that class of medical certificate

**first general medical examination**, in relation to an applicant for a class of medical certificate, means—

- (a) the general medical examination of an applicant who has never previously been issued that class of medical certificate; or
- (a) the general medical examination of an applicant who has not held that class of medical certificate for five years or more

**general medical examination** means the general medical examination referred to in rule 67.57(1)(i) of the Rules

**other applicable routine examinations** —

- (a) means the examinations that an applicant for a class of medical certificate is routinely required to have as part of the general medical examination for that class of medical certificate; but
- (b) does not include a clinical examination

**relevant age** has the meaning set out in clause 12(5)

**routine examinations** means the examinations that an applicant for a class of medical certificate is routinely required to have as part of the general medical examination for that class of medical certificate

**Rules** means the Civil Aviation Rules

**subsequent general medical examination**, in relation to an applicant for a class of medical certificate, means a general medical examination that is not the first general medical examination

**Civil Aviation (Timetable for Routine Examinations) General Directions Notice 2021**, In this notice has the same meaning as in the Act, the Rules, or the Civil Aviation (Examination Procedures) General Directions Notice 2020, as the case may require.

## **5 Status of examples**

- (1) An example used in this notice is only illustrative of the provision to which it relates. It does not limit the provision.
- (2) If an example and the provisions to which it relates are inconsistent, the provision prevails.

## **Part 2 — Timing of routine examinations**

### **Subpart 1 — Routine examinations**

#### **6 Timing of general medical examination**

- (1) A general medical examination is a routine examination that an applicant for a class of medical certificate must have as part of the medical examination referred to in section 27D(1) of the Act for that class of medical certificate.
- (2) The requirements for a general medical examination are set out in section 1 of Schedule 1 of the Civil Aviation (Examination Procedures) General Directions Notice 2006.
- (3) A general medical examination includes the following routine examinations:
  - (a) a clinical examination;
  - (h) the other applicable routine examinations set out in the Schedule.

#### **7 Timing of other applicable routine examinations**

- (1) The table in Part 1 of the Schedule sets out the timing of the other applicable routine examinations for a class 1 medical certificate.
- (2) The table in Part 2 of the Schedule sets out the timing of the other applicable routine examinations for a class 2 medical certificate.

- (3) The table in Part 3 of the Schedule sets out the timing of the other applicable routine examinations for a class 3 medical certificate.
- (4) If an applicant applies for 2 or more classes of medical certificates, the table applicable to the highest class of certificate applied for is relevant.  
i.e. Part 1 table for a class 1 and 2 application, or 1 and 3, or 1, 2 and 3 application and Part 3 table for an application for Class 2 and 3.

**8 First general medical examination**

If the general medical examination is the first general medical examination, a tick (✓) alongside the first general medical examination in the relevant table indicates that an applicant must have each of the other applicable routine examinations that appear above the ticks (i).

***Example***

An applicant applies for a class 1 medical certificate. The relevant table is set out in Part 1 of the Schedule. The general medical examination is the first general medical examination for a class 1 medical certificate.

In addition to the general medical examination, the applicant must have the other applicable routine examinations relating to the first general medical examination, which are: 12-lead ECG, blood lipids estimation, blood sugar estimation, chest x-ray (if note 1 to the relevant table applies), spirometry, audiometry, special vision examination, and colour-vision screening examination (Ishihara).

**9 Subsequent general medical examination**

- (1) For the purpose of these general directions the relevant ages are—
  - (a) the current age of the applicant; and
  - (b) each of the ages between the current age of the applicant and the applicant's age at the date of the applicant's last medical examination for the same class of medical certificate.
- (2) If the general medical examination is a subsequent general medical examination, a tick (I) alongside the relevant ages in the table for the Class of certificate applied for indicates that an applicant must have each of the routine examinations that are named above the ticks (i).
- (3) Despite subclause (2), an applicant is not required to have the same routine examination more than once for any:
  - (a) subsequent general medical examination; or
  - (b) subsequent general medical examinations at the same current age.

**Civil Aviation (Timetable for Routine Examinations) General Directions Notice 2021**

**Schedule— Timing of other applicable routine examination**

**Part 1 — Class 1 medical certificate**

**First general medical examination**

<b>Timing of routine examination Class 1 certificate</b>	<b>12-lead ECG</b>	<b>Cardiovascular risk estimation</b>	<b>Blood lipids &amp; Blood sugar estimation</b>	<b>Audiometry</b>	<b>Special vision examination &amp; Ishihara</b>	<b>Spirometry</b>	<b>Chest X-ray</b>
<b>First general medical examination</b>	✓	✓ if note 1 applies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ if note 2 applies

**Subsequent general medical examinations**

<b>Timing of routine examination Class 1 certificate</b>	<b>12-lead ECG</b>	<b>Cardiovascular risk estimation</b>	<b>Blood lipids &amp; Blood sugar estimation</b>	<b>Audiometry</b>	<b>Special vision examination</b>	<b>Spirometry</b>	<b>Chest X-ray</b>
	See the table below for requirements of subsequent general medical examination See also note 1 to 4					See note 3 for age 55 spirometry requirement Else required on clinical indication only	
Age <30							
Age 30							
Age 31							
Age 32							
Age 33							
Age 34							
Age 35							
Age 36							
Age 37							
Age 38							

Timing of routine examination Class 1 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 39							
Age 40	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 41							
Age 42							
Age 43							
Age 44							
Age 45	✓	✓	✓				
Age 46							
Age 47							
Age 48							
Age 49							
Age 50	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 51							
Age 52	✓						
Age 53							
Age 54	✓						
Age 55		✓	✓	✓		✓ if note 3 applies	
Age 56	✓						
Age 57							
Age 58	✓						
Age 59							
Age 60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 61							
Age 62	✓	✓	✓				



<b>Timing of routine examination Class 1 certificate</b>	<b>12-lead ECG</b>	<b>Cardiovascular risk estimation</b>	<b>Blood lipids &amp; Blood sugar estimation</b>	<b>Audiometry</b>	<b>Special vision examination</b>	<b>Spirometry</b>	<b>Chest X-ray</b>
Age 63							
Age 64	✓	✓	✓				
Age 65				✓	✓		
Age 66	✓	✓	✓				
Age 67							
Age 68	✓	✓	✓				
Age 69							
Age 70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 71	✓	✓					
Age 72	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 73	✓	✓					
Age 74	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 75	✓	✓					
Age 76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 77	✓	✓					
Age 78	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 79	✓	✓					
Age 80	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 81	✓	✓					
Age 82	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 83	✓	✓					
Age 84	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 85	✓	✓					
Age 86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 87	✓	✓					

Timing of routine examination Class 1 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 89	✓	✓					
Age 90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 91	✓	✓					
Age 92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 93	✓	✓					
Age 94	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 95	✓	✓					
Age 96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 97	✓	✓					
Age 98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 99	✓	✓					
Age 100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

#### Notes

1. This examination is required only if the applicant relevant age is 40 years of age or older, or if clinically indicated.
2. This examination is required only if the applicant's history indicates a high likelihood of pulmonary disease. An example of such a history is if the applicant has had a prolonged stay in an area in which infective pulmonary disease is endemic.
3. This routine examination is required only if the applicant have smoked tobacco in the past 5 years.
4. For age above 100, the requirements continue at the same intervals.

**Part 2 — Class 2 medical certificate**

**First general medical examination**

<b>Timing of routine examination Class 2 certificate</b>	<b>12-lead ECG</b>	<b>Cardiovascular risk estimation</b>	<b>Blood lipids &amp; Blood sugar estimation</b>	<b>Audiometry for IFR privileges</b>	<b>Ishihara</b>	<b>Spirometry</b> if note 3 applies	<b>Chest X-ray</b>
<b>First general medical examination</b>	✓	✓ if note 1 applies	✓	✓	✓	✓ if note 3 applies	✓ if note 2 applies

**Subsequent general medical examinations**

<b>Timing of routine examination Class 2 certificate</b>	<b>12-lead ECG</b>	<b>Cardiovascular risk estimation</b>	<b>Blood lipids &amp; Blood sugar estimation</b>	<b>Audiometry for IFR privileges</b>	<b>Special vision examination</b>	<b>Spirometry</b>	<b>Chest X-ray</b>
	<b>See table below for requirements of subsequent general medical examination See also note 1 to 4</b>					<b>Spirometry and chest X-ray required on clinical indication only</b>	
Age <30							
Age 30							
Age 31							
Age 32							
Age 33							
Age 34							
Age 35							
Age 36							
Age 37							
Age 38							
Age 39							
Age 40				✓			
Age 41							
Age 42							

Timing of routine examination Class 2 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry for IFR privileges	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 43							
Age 44							
Age 45							
Age 46							
Age 47							
Age 48							
Age 49							
Age 50	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 51							
Age 52							
Age 53							
Age 54							
Age 55		✓	✓			✓ if note 3 applies	
Age 56							
Age 57							
Age 58							
Age 59							
Age 60	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 61							
Age 62							
Age 63							
Age 64							
Age 65	✓	✓	✓				
Age 66							
Age 67							

Timing of routine examination Class 2 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry for IFR privileges	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 68							
Age 69							
Age 70	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 71							
Age 72	✓	✓	✓				
Age 73							
Age 74	✓	✓	✓				
Age 75				✓			
Age 76	✓	✓	✓				
Age 77							
Age 78	✓	✓	✓				
Age 79							
Age 80	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 81							
Age 82	✓	✓	✓				
Age 83							
Age 84	✓	✓	✓				
Age 85				✓			
Age 86	✓	✓	✓				
Age 87							
Age 88	✓	✓	✓				
Age 89							
Age 90	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 91							
Age 92	✓	✓	✓				

Timing of routine examination Class 2 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 93							
Age 94	✓	✓	✓				
Age 95				✓			
Age 96	✓	✓	✓				
Age 97							
Age 98	✓	✓	✓				
Age 99							
Age 100	✓	✓	✓	✓ if note 4 applies			

Notes

1. This examination is required only if the applicant is 50 years of age or older, or clinically indicated.
2. This examination is required only if the applicant's history indicates a high likelihood pulmonary disease. An example of such a history is if the applicant has had a prolonged stay in an area in which infective pulmonary disease is endemic.
3. This routine examination is required only if the applicant have smoked tobacco in the past 5 years.
4. For ages above 100, the requirements continue at the same intervals.

**Part 3 — Class 3 medical certificate**

**First general medical examination**

Timing of routine examination Class 3 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination & Ishihara	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
First general medical examination	✓	✓ if note 1 applies	✓	✓	✓	✓ if note 3 applies	✓ if note 2 applies

**Subsequent general medical examinations**

Timing of routine examination Class 3 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
	See table below for requirements of subsequent general medical examination See also note 1 to 4					Spirometry and chest X-ray required on clinical indication only	
Age <30							
Age 30							
Age 31							
Age 32							
Age 33							
Age 34							
Age 35							
Age 36							
Age 37							
Age 38							
Age 39							
Age 40				✓			
Age 41							
Age 42							

Timing of routine examination Class 3 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 43							
Age 44							
Age 45							
Age 46							
Age 47							
Age 48							
Age 49							
Age 50	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Age 51							
Age 52							
Age 53							
Age 54							
Age 55		✓	✓	✓			
Age 56							
Age 57							
Age 58							
Age 59							
Age 60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 61							
Age 62							
Age 63							
Age 64							
Age 65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 66							
Age 67							



Timing of routine examination Class 3 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 68							
Age 69							
Age 70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 71							
Age 72	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 73							
Age 74	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 75							
Age 76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 77							
Age 78	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 79							
Age 80	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 81							
Age 82	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 83							
Age 84	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 85							
Age 86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 87							
Age 88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 89							
Age 90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 91							
Age 92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Timing of routine examination Class 3 certificate	12-lead ECG	Cardiovascular risk estimation	Blood lipids & Blood sugar estimation	Audiometry	Special vision examination	Spirometry	Chest X-ray
Age 93							
Age 94	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 95							
Age 96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 97							
Age 98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Age 99							
Age 100	✓	✓	✓	✓ if note 4 applies	✓		

Notes

1. This examination is required only if the applicant is 50 years of age or older.
2. This examination is required only if the applicant's history indicates a likelihood of asymptomatic pulmonary disease. An example of such a history is if the applicant has had a prolonged stay in an area in which infective pulmonary disease is endemic.
3. This routine examination is required only if the applicant have smoked tobacco in the past 5 years.
4. For ages over 100 years the requirements continue at the same interval.

Dated at Wellington                      this 01 day of November 2021.

**Director of Civil Aviation**

### Explanatory note

This note is not part of the notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This notice provides general direction for the timing of the examinations that an applicant for a class of medical certificate is routinely required to have as part of the medical examination referred to in section 27D(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990 for that class of medical certificate (**routine examinations**).

The main routine examination comprises a general medical examination referred to in rule 67.57(l)(i) of the Civil Aviation Rules.

The general medical examination includes, among other things, the following routine examinations:

- a clinical examination;
- the other applicable routine examinations whose timing requirements are set out in the Schedule of this notice.

The timing of the other applicable routine examinations depends on the following factors:

- the class or classes of medical certificate for which an applicant has applied (*clauses 8 to 10*);
- whether the general medical examination is the first general medical examination or the subsequent general medical examination for the class or classes of medical certificates for which the applicant has applied (*clauses 11 and 12*);
- if the general medical examination is the subsequent general medical examination for the class or classes of medical certificates for which the applicant has applied:
  - the applicant's age at the date of the current general medical examination;
  - the applicant's age at the date of his or her last general medical examination;
  - whether there are any other matters (such as notes in the relevant table of Parts 1, 2, or 3 of the Schedule) that would affect the timing of the other applicable routine examinations.

The other requirements for a general medical examination, a clinical examination, and the other applicable routine examinations are set out in Schedule 1 of the Civil Aviation (Examination Procedures) General Directions Notice 2021.

Issued under the authority of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989. [This notice is administered by the Civil Aviation Authority.](#)