



Update ME

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A brief update from the
Civil Aviation Authority
Central Medical Unit

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Reminder: Completion of application forms

MEs can find themselves faced with an incomplete *application for medical certificate* form (CAA 24067/001). Most commonly this involves some of the questions in section 20 not being answered although sometimes it involves sections of the application form, including items from the consent section, being struck-out by the applicant.

When faced with an incomplete application for medical certificate an ME should not make any changes to the application form¹ and should not continue the examination or assessment. The discrepancy in the application should be brought to the applicant's attention and they should be provided with the opportunity to complete the application. If the applicant fails to complete the application then the ME should not continue with the examination and should refer the matter to the CAA medical unit.

An incomplete *application for medical certificate* form should be discussed with CAA before any examination is undertaken of the applicant.

One method of checking the application form for completeness, as practised by some MEs, is to use a *fluoro* highlighter and mark the positive answers (e.g. section 20) and incomplete questions as you work your way through the application.

ICAO Annex 1 amendment: Age 65

In a state letter earlier this year (AN 5/16.1-05/17) ICAO proposed a further amendment to Annex 1 for implementation during November 2006.

The proposed amendment allows pilots who have "passed their 60th birthday" to continue international commercial air transport operations, up to an age of 65 years subject to the provisos that the new age limit applies only in the case of multi-crew operations, the second pilot is below the age of 60, and that all pilots over age 60 undergo a medical assessment every six months.

This ICAO proposal is not likely to have any immediate impact on NZ legislation as we do not have an upper age limit for pilots.

¹ The ME should make no changes or additions to the *application for medical certificate* form ... other than signing as a witness to the applicant's signature. The application form is a legal document that applicants sign to confirm the correctness of the information they're providing. If an ME makes alterations to that form they potentially compromise both the applicant and themselves.

Reminder: Exercise stress ECGs

The exercise stress ECG (stress test) is the primary investigation tool used to exclude the presence of "reversible myocardial ischaemia" in applicants who have an elevated cardiovascular risk (10% or greater 5-year risk).

Stress tests are usually arranged by the ME using their preferred cardiologist. The ME should request a copy of the complete tracing, as well as the report, and forward both to the CAA.

Seeking a stress test can open-up two sets of difficulties for the ME: delays and time constraints; inconclusive results.

If the applicant's current medical certificate is about to expire and delays are anticipated while a stress test is sought the ME may wish to consider whether an extension of the current medical certificate is appropriate.

To help avoid problems with the 90-day deadline it may be helpful to brief the applicant early and suggest they make every effort to have the stress test done early. Once 90-days looms the available options reduce and it may prove necessary, in the end, for the applicant to again apply for a medical certificate to re-open the assessment considerations. Feel free to call the CAA to discuss options should the 90-day deadline be threatening an application you're handling.

Sometimes the stress test does not clearly and unambiguously exclude the presence of any reversible myocardial ischaemia. In this situation a medical certificate should not be issued and the implications of the results should be discussed further with the CAA medical unit.

For argument's sake

Another of the many fallacious arguments applied in debate is called amphiboly. Amphiboly is the fallacy of ambiguous construction and occurs whenever the whole meaning of a statement can be taken in more than one way, and is usually the fault of careless grammar².

An example of amphiboly can be found in: "The Duchess has a very fine ship, but she has barnacles on her bottom."

² Pirie, M. *Book of the Fallacy: A Training Manual for Intellectual Subversives*. Routledge & Kegan Paul Books Ltd (1985).