



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

In reply please quote:

Address and date:

**Notice of suspension of Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates -
Direction to submit to examination and authorise the release of information to CASA**

I am writing to give you notice that I have decided that it is necessary in the interests of the safety of air navigation for you to demonstrate that you continue to meet Medical Standards 1 and 2 or that your holding of Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates will not adversely affect the safety of air navigation. On that basis, under regulation 67.230 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR), I direct you to undergo an examination and authorise the release of information to CASA as specified further below.

I have also decided that it is in the interests of the safety of air navigation that your Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates be suspended pending the results of the required examination. I have therefore suspended your Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates pursuant to regulation 67.240 of the CASR from the date you receive this notice (or are told about it verbally), whichever occurs first, until further written notice from CASA.

The reasons for my decision are set out below.

Evidence

CASA will outline their evidence as to why the medical certificate has been suspended

Applicable medical standard

The medical standards applicable to your Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates are Medical Standards 1 and 2 set out in Table 67.150 and Table 67.155 of the CASR. I consider that the information received by CASA provides a reasonable basis to conclude that you are unlikely to meet the following items of the applicable medical standards:

Table 67.150 criteria for Medical Standard 1

1.5	Does not engage in any problematic use of substances (within the meaning given by section 1.1 of Annex 1, <i>Personnel Licensing</i> , to the Chicago Convention)
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1.6	<p>If there is any personal history of problematic use of a substance (within the meaning given by section 1.1 of Annex 1, <i>Personnel Licensing</i>, to the Chicago Convention):</p> <p>(a) the person's abstinence from problematic use of the substance is certified by an appropriate specialist medical practitioner; and</p> <p>(b) the person is not suffering from any safety-relevant sequelae resulting from the person's use of the substance; and</p> <p>(c) the person provides evidence that the person is undertaking, or has successfully completed, an appropriate course of therapy</p>
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Note: In Annex 1, *Personnel Licensing*, to the Chicago Convention, 'Problematic use of substances' is defined as follows:

'The use of one or more psychoactive substances by aviation personnel in a way that:

a) constitutes a direct hazard to the user or endangers the lives, health or welfare of others; and/or

b) causes or worsens an occupational, social, mental or physical problem or disorder.'

'Psychoactive substances' is there defined as 'Alcohol, opioids, cannabinoids, sedatives and hypnotics, cocaine, other psychostimulants, hallucinogens, and volatile solvents, whereas coffee and tobacco are excluded.'

Table 67.155 criteria for Medical Standard 2

2.5	Does not engage in any problematic use of substances (within the meaning given by section 1.1 of Annex 1, <i>Personnel Licensing</i> , to the Chicago Convention)
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2.6	<p>If there is any personal history of problematic use of a substance (within the meaning given by section 1.1 of Annex 1, <i>Personnel Licensing</i>, to the Chicago Convention):</p> <p>(a) the person's abstinence from problematic use of the substance is certified by an appropriate specialist medical practitioner; and</p> <p>(b) the person is not suffering from any safety-relevant sequelae resulting from the person's use of the substance; and</p> <p>(c) the person provides evidence that the person is undertaking, or has successfully completed, an appropriate course of therapy</p>
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Risks to the safety of air navigation

The problematic use of substances is associated with a number of potential symptoms and side effects which could adversely affect your ability to safely exercise the privileges of your flight crew licence. These include but are not limited to:

- Impaired decision making;
- Impaired alertness;
- Impaired reaction time;
- Propensity to engage in high risk behaviour
- Lack of sound judgment
- Loss of situational awareness;
- Impaired concentration; and
- Impaired executive functioning.

Direction to submit to examination

Having formed the view that there is a reasonable basis for CASA to hold concerns as to whether you continue to meet the applicable medical standards outlined above, and being satisfied that it is necessary in the interests of the safety of air navigation for you to demonstrate that you continue to meet Medical Standards 1 and 2 or that your holding of Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates will not adversely affect the safety of air navigation, you are hereby directed pursuant to regulation 67.230 of the CASR to submit to the following examinations and authorise the release of the following information to CASA:

Alcohol Assessment

You are directed to attend a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (FACHAM) specialist for an assessment in regards to:

- your past and present alcohol consumption
- physical and psychological sequelae/co-morbidities
- functional impact of your drinking and/or substance use
- treatment, response to treatment and side effects
- current clinical status
- prognosis
- ongoing management plan

CASA will require the specialist's report dealing with these matters which also demonstrates that you are free from problematic use of alcohol and other substances.

You are also directed to submit to the following blood test results to demonstrate any anomalies in physiological markers associated with problematic alcohol use:

- Liver function tests (LFT);
- Full blood count (FBC); and
- Carbohydrate deficient transferrin (CDT) – *note, not iron studies.*

Urinary Drug Screen

As described in CASA's DAME Clinical Practice Guidelines <https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/aviation-medicine/clinical-practice-guidelines-disclaimer>, you are also directed to undergo a Urine Drug Screen (including cannabinoids) within 14 days from the date you receive this notice with the sample validated by your Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) or accredited laboratory (Australian Urine Drug Testing Standard 4308:2008).

The report must be sighted, signed and forwarded by your DAME, to this office as soon as possible.

National Police Checks

In addition, you are required to authorise the release to CASA of a printout of your Criminal History from the Police. The most expeditious way for you to comply with this direct would be for you to arrange for the provision of the necessary documentation directly to CASA. (Check online for how to request a copy of your "National Police Check" in your State or Territory). This report is to determine if you have any relevant traffic or criminal convictions related to alcohol or substances of abuse, which is important to help the severity of any problematic use of substances.

These tests and reports are required for CASA to determine if you suffer from problematic use of substances and if you meet the applicable medical standard.

Please arrange for all reports to be emailed to AvMed@casa.gov.au to avoid postal delays.

CASA is unable to assist with the costs of providing the necessary reports and other information.

Suspension of medical certificates

In light of the concerns which exist as to whether you continue to meet the applicable medical standards, and having regard to the safety risks identified above, I consider that it is in the interests of the safety of air navigation that your Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates be suspended pending the receipt of the examination results/information referred to above.

I therefore suspend your Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates under regulation 67.240 of the CASR from the date you receive this notice. That suspension will remain in force until further written notice from CASA ending the suspension.

Review Rights

You, or any person whose interests are affected by my decision, may, subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for a review of my decision within 28 days from the date of your receipt of my decision. I **attach**, for information, a document titled 'Notice of Review Rights,' advising generally in relation to the commencement of any such proceedings. The attached notice is not provided by way of procedural or legal advice. You should seek and rely upon your own legal advice in relation to your rights of review.

Yours sincerely,

Doctors name

MD (Aerospace Medicine)
Senior Aviation Medical Officer