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Dear Doctor

RE: APPOINTMENT OF THE AEROMEDICAL COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

The SACAA is responsible for ensuring that licensed aviation personnel meet the medical fitness standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 1 and the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) Part 67. Recent guidance from the ICAO requires that the Licensing Authority applies basic safety management principles to the medical assessment processes. This entails:

- Ensuring that accredited medical conclusions are reached.

Aeromedical decisions must be based on factual and objective data, which is evidence-based and supported by documentation to ensure aviation safety.

It gives me a great pleasure to inform you that the Director of Civil Aviation ("DCA"), and in keeping with the Civil Aviation Regulations, has resolved to establish the Aeromedical Committee ("AMC") for the South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") and appoint its members/office bearers, which has replaced the panel that used to be held at the Institute for Aviation Medicine. The AMC is an advisory body of medical, psychological, surgical and ancillary health experts charged with advising the DCA on any medical risks of existing or prospective aviation personnel who are required in terms of the Civil Aviation Regulations (1997) to hold medical certificates.

The Aeromedical Committee, which comprises of representatives from the various Medical Universities (Wits, Univ.Limpopo & Univ.Pretoria) and Organizations (SASAEM & IAM), ensures that accredited medical conclusions are reached and assist the SACAA abreast with International Best Practices. The appointment of the Aeromedical Committee shall be for a period of two (2) year, unless terminated earlier by either party. **All medical documents should continue to be sent to the Institute for Aviation Medicine for verification and panel preparation.**

2. CHALLENGES & INTERVENTIONS-MEDICAL CERTIFICATION PROCESSES

The SACAA, in consultation with the Institute for Aviation Medicine has identified challenges arising from the Aviation Medical Department (SACAA), the Institute for Aviation Medicine and the Designated Medical Examiners. These include the inadequate completion of forms and medical certificates, outdated medical protocols which lead to unnecessary medical appeals, a lack of clear definition of acceptable medical risk, the lack of an integrated IT system between the stakeholders, a backlog in the verification processes due to the deployment of military doctors, administrative errors, insufficient specialist input and limited participation of medical universities.

To address the urgency that revolves around the matters discussed at the Aeromedical Committee and to ensure smooth functioning of the committee, Designated Medical Examiners and applicants are required to comply with the following processes:

Procedure for Aeromedical Committee Preparation:

- All documentation that are to be presented to the Aeromedical committee must be submitted to the Institute for Aviation Medicine (7) seven working days prior to the date of the meeting.
- Applicant's and DAME's are to submit all medical examinations reports, specialist reports and all the supporting documents which constitute the core for the discussion by the Aeromedical Committee to the IAM clearly labelled PANEL.
- The SACAA requires sufficient time to meticulously prepare the cases prior the discussion in the meeting.
- All supporting specialists' reports should preferably be written in English to minimise delays caused by translation.
- The SACAA will draft the minutes of the committee, circulate them for comments to the Aeromedical Committee, and the outcome will be sent to the applicants after seven working days following the meeting.
- The Aeromedical Committee schedule is drawn a year in advance and it is available on the CAA website.

Should you have any queries regarding the processes involved, kindly contact our office.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. Lesego Bogatsu



Senior Manager

Aviation Medical Department