

Update ME

A brief update from the
Civil Aviation Authority
Central Medical Unit



14 March 2011

Welcome to another issue of our *Update ME* newsletter.

We have moved

CAA has now completed the move to its new premises at 55 Featherston St, in the Wellington CBD. The building offers adequate facilities that were lacking at the Petone location. Most of the initial teething problems have been fixed although we still have some difficulties sending faxes. We have no problems receiving them. Else the CMU is operating normally. If you identify any problem with our communication with you, please let us know so that we can remedy the situation.

You are welcome to visit us if you are in Wellington. The central location should make it easy for you to visit.

Information sheet on Alcohol

A new information sheet "Alcohol consumption and medical aviation safety" has been produced. It is promulgated on the website at:

http://www.caa.govt.nz/medical/Med_Info_Sheets/MIS014.pdf

The information sheets are aimed at answering questions by applicants. Medical Examiners may find them useful to be able to direct applicants / license holders to this information when relevant questions arise.

Medical Manual

Protocols for the following tests and reports have been placed on line: Echocardiography, Stress ECG, Stress Echocardiography, Stress myocardial perfusion scan and spirometry. These are available within the Medical Manual at the following link:

http://www.caa.govt.nz/medical/Medical_Manual/Med_Man_Part-5.pdf

You are encouraged to use the protocols when referring applicants as this will assist in obtaining reports to the required standard.

Colour vision deficiency

We have noted that some inconsistent or out-of-date restrictions are being imposed on pi-

lots with colour vision deficiencies. For example the term "special operations" is no longer used in the Civil Aviation legislation and so has no place in conditions imposed on medical certificates.

The observed variation in certification outcomes, for colour vision deficient applicants, has led to our needing to make an intensive effort to re-establish consistency. Accordingly we suggest that you treat all colour vision deficient applicants (failed Ishihara screen) as not meeting the medical standards and then process their application via the flexibility avenue. Doing this will ensure every case is reviewed, and will assist in re-establishing consistent certification outcomes for colour vision deficient applicants.

Cardiovascular risk calculation

We still find a number of cases where the cardiovascular risk was not calculated in accordance with the GDs. Please ensure that your CV risk estimate is calculated in accordance with that legislation.

Christchurch Earthquake

All of us at CMU wish to express our feelings and sympathy to the people of Christchurch. Some are CAA staff. Fortunately they have all escaped significant injuries or loss of life. We understand that, despite the disruption, all MEs are now once more able to deliver services to their pilots and air traffic controllers.

Emergency Directive

There are ongoing problems in Christchurch in obtaining some of the necessary tests that are required under the GD "Timing of examinations", particularly blood tests. For this reason the Director has issued an Emergency Directive allowing applicants to seek relief, on application to the Director, from the requirement to undertake some tests. This is available on the CAA Website:

http://www.caa.govt.nz/medical/emergency_directive.pdf

With best regards from the CMU staff.

CAA Medical Help

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