

 <p>SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>SACAA Private Bag X 73 Halfway House 1685</p>
<p>E-Mail: avmedinfo@caa.co.za</p>	<p>AVIATION MEDICINE GENERAL NOTICE</p>	<p>DATED: 10 September 2024</p>

GENERAL NOTICE RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PART 67.00.4 (1) OF THE CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS, 2011 AND ITS ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL STANDARD

1. Purpose of this General Notice

This notice serves to communicate to the aviation industry and impacted license holders who underwent medical examinations with a particular designated aviation medical examiner (DAME) for purposes of obtaining a medical certificate.

2. Background

The SACAA is responsible for ensuring that licensed aviation personnel meet the medical fitness standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) Annex 1, the Civil Aviation Regulations, 2011 (CARs) and the Civil Aviation Technical Standard (CATS) prescribed in Part 67.

In this regard, the Director of Civil Aviation periodically designates medical practitioners registered with the HPCSA and interested in aviation, to conduct medical examinations and issue certificates to aviation license holders on behalf of the Director.

The Director of Civil Aviation designated Dr Nhlanhla Sishaba (“the DAME”), to conduct medical examinations and issue certificates to aviation license holders who meet the requirements set out in the relevant CARs and CATS on her behalf. The designation of the DAME lapsed on 31 March 2024.

While she has a renewal application in progress, it is on hold pending an investigation into the alleged possible non-compliance with the provisions of Part 67.00.4 of the CARs. Therefore, she currently has no authority to perform the functions of a DAME on behalf of the Director.

All assessments and medical certificates issued by the DAME after the expiry of her designation are invalid.

The SACAA has also become aware of information that implicates the DAME in alleged fraudulent activities and non-compliances with CARs. The SACAA therefore instituted an investigation that unearthed several non-compliances that may compromise aviation safety, namely:

- a) The DAME conducted medical examinations despite her designation expiring on 31 March 2024. This renders the medical certificates issued by her after this date invalid.
- b) The DAME submitted medicals with fraudulent medical reports in contravention of the CARs requirements.
- c) The DAME is alleged to have used non-medical personnel to conduct medical examinations and issue medical certificates.

3. Notice

The SACAA hereby calls on all license holders who underwent medical examinations with the abovementioned DAME after 31 March 2024 to immediately submit themselves for a medical examination and issuance of a medical certificate by a SACAA designated aviation medical examiner with a valid and current accreditation.

The SACAA's investigation is still ongoing, however the Regulator has already positively identified some license holders who are impacted by the use of fraudulent medical documents and those who may have been examined by unauthorised personnel. As a result, the Regulator is in the process of writing to those license holders where discrepancies have already been confirmed to present themselves to designated aviation medical examiners with current and valid accreditations for re-examination.

The impacted applicants are afforded 15 working days from **10 September 2024** within which to present themselves for re-examination and issuance of medical certification, failing which the affected applicants will be declared temporarily medically unfit until they meet the requirements. The deadline for re-examination is **01 October 2024**.

This requirement is applicable to aviation personnel such as air traffic controllers, cabin crew, flight engineers and pilots who are required to hold either a Class I, II, III or IV medical certificate.

All licence holders with current medical certificates, who have been assessed and issued with medical certificates by the DAME, who believe that their medical certificate was issued in compliance with the CARs and associated CATS are called upon to contact SACAA through the following email: avmedinfo@caa.co.za so that they verify the compliance and validity of their medical certificates.


KINDLY NOTE THAT SHOULD AN AFFECTED LICENSE HOLDER FAIL TO RESPOND OR PRESENT THEMSELVES TO A DAME WITH CURRENT DESIGNATION BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS OF THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE, THE SACAA WILL HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO CANCEL THE AFFECTED MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

License holders, who were seen by this DAME, and are on medical protocol as prescribed under Part 67.00.2 CATS or have a known medical condition which may impact aviation safety are required to **immediately** contact the SACAA Aviation Medical Department who will verify that they are compliant with the protocol, failing which they will, with immediate effect, be declared temporarily medically unfit.

The cost of conducting medical assessments and associated examinations as well as costs of obtaining new medical certificates will be incurred by the holder of the medical certificate.

4. Decision by the Director of Civil Aviation

This notice communicates the decision of the Director who reserves the right to amend the decisions contained in this notice should circumstances dictate the necessity thereof. Please note: If there are any regulatory changes this notice will be subject for review.

Issued by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)		
	Ms. POPPY KHOZA	10 September 2024
SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE