Reasons for medical disqualification of IR Iranian commercial pilots between 2001-2011

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Introduction: A License holder is legally obliged to undergo regular health examination, performed by designated medical examiner in an aero medical center (AMC). The medical requirements for commercial pilots are issued by the ICAO, FAA, CAA, and JAA. In IR. of IRAN the Aero medical Section (AMS) of the Civil Aviation Authority evaluates and assesses medical reports submitted to the Licensing Authority by medical examiners whether pilots are medically fit to fly. This study presents the causes for medical disqualification among the Iranian commercial pilot population during a 10-yr period.

Methods: The categories of medical condition which have most often been responsible for permanent disqualification of flying personnel have been previously documented in some studies. In my country, the outcome of all pilot medical examinations are gathered in the archive of the Aero-medical Section of the Iranian Civil Aviation Authority. The disqualifying conditions were reviewed, listed individually, and grouped by major disease categories, age factors related to these conditions were examined..

Results: In this study total population are 36480 pilots took the Iranian pilot’s medical examination and pilot-years, and 154 pilots were permanently grounded, which gives a 10-yr average disqualification rate of 4.2 per 1,000 pilot-years.

Discussion and Conclusions: Cardiovascular disease, as a calcification, was found to be the commonest cause of disqualification in this population. Other causes internal medical, neurological diseases, ENT problem, endocrine diseases, psychiatric diseases are frequent reasons for permanent disqualification. This fact is probably not attributed to more stringent health requirements, but possibly to the attitudes of the pilots, who have become more critical with respect to their subjective perception of their working environment and psychosocial factors.

Keywords: medical disqualification, medical certification, medical examination, medical fitness, medical requirements.