



# Update ME

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A brief update from the  
Civil Aviation Authority  
Central Medical Unit

07 March 2008

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

Please accept our apologies for a late start to the 2008 series of newsletters, but we've had our hands rather full with other matters recently.

## Reminder: Ask us questions

Our administrative staff members have been commenting on the great work being done by the MEs who are working their way through our "pre-audit" (under supervision) program. They've noticed that: 1. These MEs have been asking a lot more questions of us; and 2. That the MEs who are asking most questions appear to be the ones who get on top of the system and the paperwork quickest and best.

It's only anecdotal at the moment but this observation appears to suggest a positive correlation between amount of questions asked and performance. In the absence of any worthwhile evidence to the contrary we'd like to encourage MEs to use the expertise available here at the CAA. Email us, fax us, phone us, or SMS TXT us ... but do ask us if there's anything at all you're uncertain about.

The only stupid questions are those that are not asked. If even slightly unsure then ask us!

## CMU staffing

The CAA Central Medical Unit is presently operating with only two staff medical officers: Drs Claude Preitner and Dougal Watson. We are not likely to have any significant additional medical staffing until at least the middle of this year.

We are trying to provide a similar level of service as we did when we had four medical officers ... but it's unlikely that we'll be able to entirely achieve this. There may be some delays in some of the work that requires medical officer input.

Please do be aware of our staffing situation and prepare to exercise a little patience if we're not keeping up as well as you'd hoped.

## Guidelines: Stress ECG & Stress Echo

Two more applicant guideline documents have been drafted by the CMU. These documents are intended for the applicant to pass on to the testing doctor (or support staff) when booking the test, and advise concerning the aspects of the test that are of particular importance for CAA's regulatory aeromedical purposes.

If you'd like a copy of these guidelines, to use as-is or to modify to suit your own needs, then please contact our help-desk (see below).

The two new guideline documents are titled: CAA requirements for Stress Echocardiography (also called Stress Echo, Exercise echo); and CAA requirements for Exercise Electrocardiography (also called Stress ECG, or Exercise ECG).

## Snippet: Growth of Indian Aviation

During the last four years the number of initial medical certificates issued by the Indian Directorate General of Civil Aviation (CAA equivalent organisation) has grown: 2003 – 300; 2004 – 600; 2005 – 2500; 2006 – 6000; 2007 – 9500. Current indications are that 2008 will continue this trend.

That's an increase of greater than 30-fold in four years. Needless to say, their "PMO", who is the only doctor at DGCA and who personally issues every medical certificate, is having some difficulty keeping up and applicants are experiencing some delays.

## We are here to help!

If you have any problems, questions, or queries, please contact our help-desk (details below)

## CAA Medical Help

Tel: +64-4-560 9466 Fax: +64-4-560 9470  
Email: [med@caa.govt.nz](mailto:med@caa.govt.nz) web site: [www.caa.govt.nz](http://www.caa.govt.nz)