

## **SUBSTANCES OF DEPENDENCE/ABUSE**

# Substances of Dependence/Abuse

As an Examiner you are required to be aware of the regulations and Agency policy and have a responsibility to inform airmen of the potential adverse effects of medications and to counsel airmen regarding their use. There are numerous conditions that require the chronic use of medications that do not compromise aviation safety and, therefore, are permissible. Airmen who develop short-term, self-limited illnesses are best advised to avoid performing aviation duties while medications are used.

Aeromedical decision-making includes an analysis of the underlying disease or condition and treatment. The underlying disease has an equal and often greater influence upon the determination of aeromedical certification. It is unlikely that a source document could be developed and understood by airmen when considering the underlying medical condition(s), drug interactions, medication dosages, and the sheer volume of medications that need to be considered. A list may encourage or facilitate an airmen's self-determination of the risks posed by various medical conditions especially when combination therapy is used. A list is subject to misuse if used as the sole factor to determine certification eligibility or compliance with 14 CFR part 61.53, Prohibition of Operations During Medical Deficiencies. Maintaining a published list of "acceptable" medications is labor intensive and in the final analysis only partially answers the certification question and does not contribute to aviation safety.

Therefore, the list of medications referenced provides aeromedical guidance about specific medications or classes of pharmaceutical preparations and is applied by using sound aeromedical clinical judgment. This list is not meant to be totally inclusive or comprehensive. No independent interpretation of the FAA's position with respect to a medication included or excluded from the following should be assumed.

## **Aviation Industry Antidrug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Programs**

[http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/avs/offices/aam/drug\\_alcohol](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/drug_alcohol)

# Substances of Dependence/Abuse

ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE/ABUSE

MARIJUANA

AMPHETAMINES

NARCOTICS

ANXIOLYTICS

PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP)

COCAINE

PSYCHOTROPIC

HYPNOTICS

STIMULANTS

HALLUCINOGENS

TRANQUILIZERS

The following is applicable to each Substances of Dependence/Abuse referenced above:

## I. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

First-Class Airman Medical Certificate: 67.107

Second-Class Airman Medical Certificate: 67.207

Third-Class Airman Medical Certificate: 67.307

## II. MEDICAL HISTORY and CONVICTIONS OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.

Medical History: **Item 18.n.**, page 32, Substance dependence; or failed a drug test ever; or substance abuse or use of illegal substance in the last 2 years.

"Substance" includes alcohol and other drugs (e.g., PCP, sedatives and hypnotics, anxiolytics, marijuana, cocaine, opioids, amphetamines, hallucinogens, and other psychoactive drugs or chemicals). For a "yes" answer to Item 18.n., the Examiner should obtain a detailed description of the history. A history of substance dependence or abuse is disqualifying. The Examiner must defer issuance of a certificate if there is doubt concerning an applicant's substance use.

Convictions or Administrative Actions: **Item 18.v.**, page 33, Conviction and/or Administrative Action History

The events to be reported are specifically identified in Item 18.v. of FAA Form 8500-8. If "yes" is checked, the applicant must describe the conviction(s) and/or administrative action(s) in the EXPLANATIONS box. The description must include:

- The alcohol or drug offense for which the applicant was convicted or the type of administrative action involved (e.g., attendance at an educational or rehabilitation program in lieu of conviction; license denial, suspension, cancellation, or revocation for refusal to be tested; educational safe driving program for multiple speeding convictions; etc.);
- The name of the state or other jurisdiction involved; and
- The date of the conviction and/or administrative action

If there have been no new convictions or administrative actions since the last application, the applicant may enter "PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, NO CHANGE." Convictions and/or administrative actions affecting driving privileges may raise questions about the applicant's fitness for certification and may be cause for disqualification.

A single driving while intoxicated (DWI) conviction or administrative action usually is not cause for denial if there are no other instances or indications of substance dependence or abuse. The Examiner should inquire regarding the applicant's alcohol use history, the circumstances surrounding the incident, and document those findings in **Item 60**, See page 153.

**NOTE:** The Examiner should advise the applicant that the reporting of alcohol or drug offenses (i.e., motor vehicle violation) on the history part of the medical application does not relieve the airman of responsibility to report each motor vehicle action to the FAA within 60 days of the occurrence to the Civil Aviation Security Division, AAC-700; P.O. Box 25810; Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0810.

**III. AEROMEDICAL DECISION CONSIDERATIONS:** See **Item 47.**, page 115, Psychiatric, Aerospace Medical Disposition table.

**IV. PROTOCOL:** See Substances of Dependence/Abuse Protocol

**V. Aviation Industry Antidrug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Programs**

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