

CIVIL AVIATION NOTICES

CAN 5-06

AFISO Authorisations

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AFISO Authorisations

6.1 General

This Notice provides interpretation on the issuance of Aerodrome Flight Information Service Operators (AFISO) Authorisations with regard to Competency and Medical Requirements, due to conflicting application of Civil Aviation Regulations in CAR 179 and CAR FCL-3.

6.2 Purpose

The Civil Aviation Notices, hereinafter referred to as Notices, are issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The Notices are a means of circulating essential information of an administrative or technical nature to aviation participants within Oman.

AFIS Providers are required to ensure that prior to a person's authorisation to provide AFIS that relevant qualification criteria have been met by the AFISO. This Notice provides requirements for establishing competence and medical fitness criteria for such authorisation due to excessively onerous or ambiguous regulations.

6.3 Applicability

This CAN applies to all Aerodrome Flight Information Service Operators who are required to obtain authorisation to provide Aerodrome Flight Information Services as per CAR 179.053.

6.4 Application of the Regulations

CAR 179 prescribes the requirements for the establishment, implementation, and maintenance of a system for the provision of aerodrome flight information service (AFIS).

Aerodrome Flight Information Service Operators (AFISO) having met the qualification and experience requirements stipulated in CAR 179.053, are required to be issued an authorisation from an Aerodrome Flight Information Service Provider to provide AFIS.

CAR 179.053 (b) stipulates that personnel who provide AFIS are required to meet the following qualification requirements:

- (1) *be at least eighteen (18) years of age;*
- (2) *hold an ICAO Class 3 medical certificate; and*
- (3) *speak and understand the English language used for radiotelephony communications, at a minimum of ICAO Level 4, as described in ICAO Annex 1.*

CAR-FCL-3 prescribes the applicable medical standards required for the conduct of aviation medicals by certified Aviation Medical Examiners.

CAR FCL-3.245 specifies the classes of Medical Certificate (Assessment) used within Oman and stipulates that a Class 3 Medical Assessments applies to applicants for, and holders of:

- (1) *Air traffic controller licenses.*
- (2) *RPA licenses for large RPAs (drones)*

As Aerodrome Flight Information Service Operators obtain an authorisation from the AFIS Provider and do not hold a license issued by the Authority, they are not required to be Medically Certified in terms of CAR FCL-3. As such CAR 179 implements an onerous requirement which is additional to the intent of CAR-FCL-3.

Medical and physical fitness assessments are required in other Parts of the Regulations such as in CAR 139 where Aerodrome Rescue and Fire-fighting crews are required to complete such assessments, however these also do not fall under the scope of CAR-FCL-3. Such Medical and Physical Assessments are prescribed in the Operator's Manuals and Accepted by the Authority, however not overseen by the Medical Examiner as they are not defined in ICAO Annex 1.

6.5 Revision of AFISO Authorisation Requirements

The requirements of CAR 179.053 (a & b) to be amended as follows:

- 1) Aerodrome Flight Information Service Providers shall establish procedures and programmes, which shall be acceptable by the authority, for AFISO;
 - a) Training, as required by 179.053 (c)
 - b) competence assessment; and
 - c) medical and physical fitness examination.
- 2) The Competence assessment in 1b) shall be conducted:
 - i. i) after completion of any training
 - ii. ii) At least once per annum to renew an AFISO Authorisation
 - iii. iii) After any period in excess of 30 consecutive days in which the duties of AFISO have not been performed.
- 3) The medical and physical fitness examination described in 1b) shall be valid from the date of the medical and fitness examination for a period not greater than:
 - iv. Five (5) years for AFISOs aged below 40 years
 - v. Two (2) years for AFISOs aged from 40 years and above but below 50 years
 - vi. One (1) year for AFISOs aged from 50 years and above.
- 4) An Aerodrome Flight Information Service Provider shall issue authorisation to person's who provide AFIS providing such persons have met the following Qualification criteria:
 - a) be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - b) speak and understand the English language used for radiotelephony communications, at a minimum of ICAO Level 4, as described in ICAO Annex 1.
 - c) have completed a medical and physical fitness assessment
 - d) have been assessed as competent in performing AFIS duties.

The requirements of CAR 179.051 (b) (4) be amended as follows:

- 5) An Aerodrome Flight Information Service Provider shall establish policies and procedures to ensure, where practicable, that an aerodrome flight information service officer shall not exercise the privileges of their authorization:
 - i. unless they comply with any endorsements or restrictions based on their medical and physical fitness assessment;
 - ii. when any decrease in their medical fitness might render them unable to safely exercise these privileges, including while under the influence of any psychoactive substance; and
 - iii. hold a valid English language proficiency rating;

6.6 Effective date

This CAN is effective from date of issue of this Notice

6.7 Cancellation

The CAN shall be cancelled on amendment of CAR 179