

AEROMEDICAL EXAMINATION OF ROTARY WING PILOTS-A FORGOTTEN CLASS 1: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF AN ACCUMULATING ANNUAL RECORDS OF 2013-2015 IN KOREA

EXAMEN AÉROMÉDICAL DES PILOTES D'AILE ROTAIRES - UNE CLASSE OUBLIÉ: ANALYSE RETROSPECTIVE D'UN DOSSIER ANNUEL ACCUMULANT DE 2013-2015 EN CORÉE

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Introduction: The medical certification for pilots is required by the aviation safety authority in most countries based with the ICAO recommendation.

Methods: Medical data of the years of 2013-2015 for the Korean rotary-wing pilot population, including examination findings and reasons of unfitness, were reviewed by retrospective analysis.

Results: Among the total 1791 cases, 190 (10.6%) were determined to be conditioned fit as a consequence of abnormal findings. Nine (0.5%) were denied certification as unfit. Hearing loss (32.8%) is the most common cause of disqualification, differing from that of fixed-wing pilots. It is not surprising data in that helicopter is notorious for its noise and vibration compared with fixed-wing aircraft during flights. Hypertension (23.9%) and diabetes (9%) are following causes. There is an increasing tendency of medical unfitness as pilots' age or total flight time is increased respectively. Rate of the conditioned fit tends to be significantly increasing as age of 55 or more or the flight time of 5,000 hours or more.

Conclusion: These results suggest that aeromedical decision should be made under understanding of the influence of age, total flight time and aircraft type to ensure flight safety.