

How the AMC Process Works

For most pilots, a medical exam is a straightforward process. However, if you don't meet the prescribed medical standards, flexibility may allow you and your medical examiner to work out a way to keep you in the air.

Usually a medical certificate can be issued the same day as an examination. But if you don't meet the prescribed medical standards, your medical examiner – who is acting for the Director of Civil Aviation – may further consider the case by relying on 'flexibility'.

For flexibility to be used, the medical examiner must first obtain and consider an Accredited Medical Conclusion (AMC). An AMC is a conclusion where one or more experts consider your application.

"The AMC's purpose is to ensure aviation safety is maintained, even when you may not meet the prescribed medical standards," says Judi Te Huia, CAA's Team Leader of Aviation Medicine.

Every AMC application is different. Some are straightforward and can be decided on the same day, while others are more complex and may take longer.

"Often the applications that do take longer require further clinical or medical information," adds Judi.

"Therefore it's really important to supply as much information as possible, when requested, to ensure your application is processed in a timely manner.

"That means, even if you do need to apply for flexibility, you usually don't need to be examined again. The experts will rely on the clinical or medical information you have supplied."

At this point, if you decide to cancel your AMC application, you need to advise your medical examiner, or the CAA, in writing. That means your medical application will be declined.

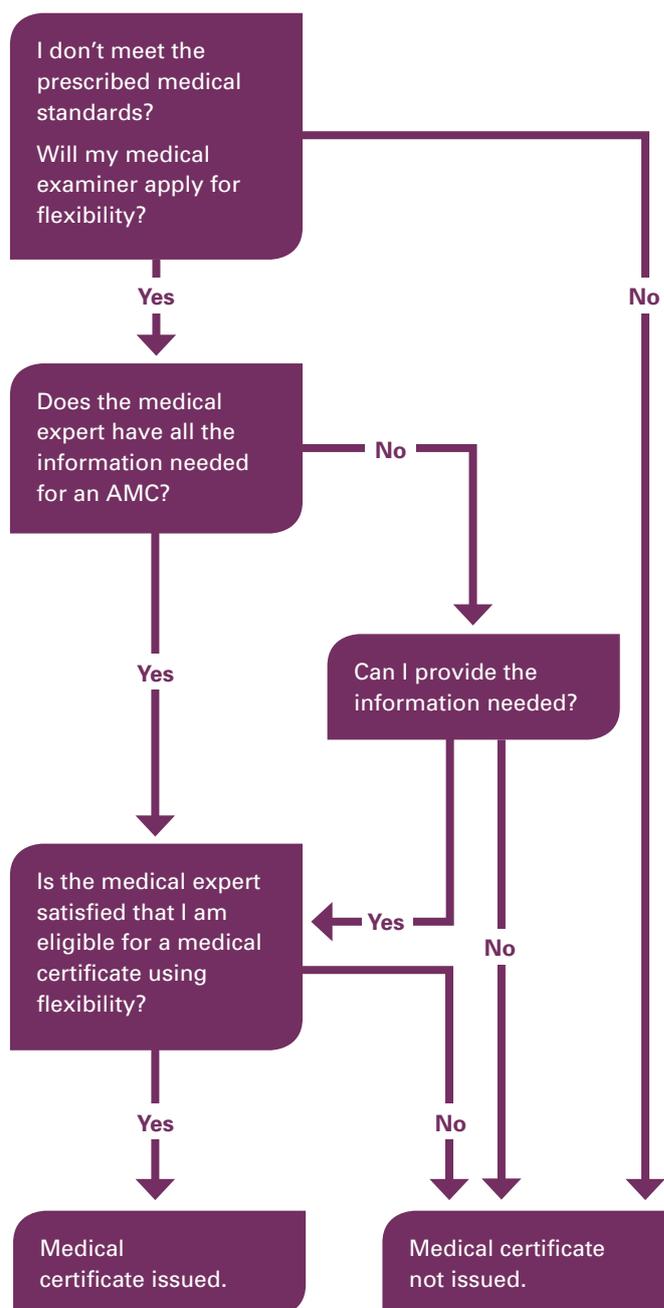
Review and Appeal Options

If you're unhappy with the outcome of your medical certificate application, you have a number of options. The most often used is to seek a review by the Convener. There's information about this on the CAA web site, www.caa.govt.nz, "Medical-Convener".

Further steps are also outlined on the web site, such as a District Court appeal. You should seek independent legal advice if you want to pursue the court options.

MOT Review

As part of its review of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, the Ministry of Transport is looking at medical issues, including flexibility. You can stay up to date with this by going to www.mot.govt.nz, "Air – Civil Aviation Act 1990 and Airport Authorities Act 1966 review". ■



This diagram doesn't include any review process. It should be considered in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Act 1990, the Civil Aviation Rules, the Aviation Medical Transitional Criteria Notice 2002, General Directions, and the Medical Manual. This diagram does not replace or override any of those documents.