



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PILOTS

FIP/DGMS IAF/21 - 06

01st May 2021

To
Air Marshal Prashant Bharadwaj, VSM
DGMS (Air)
Indian Air Force

Sub: Blood Alcohol Tests for Civil Pilots - Regarding

Sir,

1) The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) is a registered organisation comprising approximately 5000 members across the entire spectrum of the civil aviation industry in India, including all the major airlines and regional air operators.

2) It has been brought to our notice that an opinion is being sought from your esteemed office, through the regulatory authority, regarding the feasibility of conducting blood tests on certain categories of civilian pilots in lieu of breath alcohol tests due to prevailing Covid related risks.

3) May we most respectfully place on record our apprehensions about the usage of such invasive tests as a routine measure in a civilian environment, since factors that could hamper a fair, robust and safe testing process, are likely to arise.

Some of the challenges that we foresee would be to ensure a secure chain of custody to prevent switching, contamination and tampering of blood samples, the safe disposal of bio-hazard waste and the prevention of exposure of aircrew to infections at sample collection points. Apart from this, it would also lead to infrastructural issues and enhanced costs for aircraft operators who are already reeling under the devastating financial impact of the ongoing pandemic.

4) It would be kindly appreciated that civilian aircrew form the backbone of the national logistical effort to keep vital supply chains running during this crucial time and every effort must be made to protect their best interests and safety.

Therefore, in view of all the above factors, it is requested that any proposal to introduce blood alcohol tests is placed in abeyance in the national and public interest.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Capt. Surinder Mehta
President – Federation of Indian Pilots

Gate No. 2, Air India Complex, Old Airport, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400 029.

Tel.: +91 22 2615 7282 / 2615 7835 / 2165 7325

E-Mail: office@fipindia.com • Website: fipindia.com • Regn. No.: F-18362 Mah 927