



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
TECHNICAL CENTRE, OPPOSITE SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI

CIVIL AVIATION REQUIREMENT
SECTION 7 – FLIGHT CREW STANDARDS
TRAINING AND LICENSING

SERIES 'X', PART III

ISSUE I, 01st DECEMBER 2016
2016

EFFECTIVE: 01st DECEMBER

Subject: Adherence to Flight Duty Assignment by Pilots employed with air transport undertaking

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pilots employed with air transport undertakings are generally assigned flight duties as part of the scheduling system wherein adequate notice is given to the pilot prior to the flight duty. However, it has been observed that pilots at times do not adhere to assigned flight duties that have a bearing on flight safety or public interest. Patterns have been observed wherein pilots rostered for flights report sick especially during times of festivals, weekends or at times during periods of disagreement with the management over issues of work terms and conditions. In some cases, groups of pilots report sick without notice and as a result airlines are forced to delay or cancel their flights at the last minute. Such action on the part of pilots and the resultant disruption of flights causes inconvenience and harassment to the passengers. Sometimes such an abrupt action on the part of the pilots is in the form of a concerted move, which leaves the travelling public stranded. This is a highly undesirable practice and goes against the public interest.

1.2 Such an action on the part of pilots attracts the provisions of sub-rule (2) of rule 39A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which reads as follows:

“The Central Government may debar a person permanently or temporarily from holding any license or rating mentioned in rule 38 if in its opinion it is necessary to do so in the public interest.”

2. APPLICABILITY

- 2.1 This Civil Aviation Requirement shall be applicable to the pilots employed with any air transport undertaking as defined in clause (9A) of rule 3 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

3. REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Pilots shall adhere to the reporting time for flight briefing and at the aircraft prior to departure in accordance with such time as specified in the DGCA approved Operations Manual, Part A to ensure that there is no compromise on mandatory aircraft/cockpit safety checks.
- 3.2 Airlines publish planned flight roster for pilots on periodic basis, which serves as a planning tool. However, due to dynamic nature of flight operations, such planned roster undergoes change at regular interval. Pilots shall undertake the flight duties as per the dynamic roster as long as they are within the Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL).
- 3.3 Airlines shall ensure that pilots; who often report sick on periodic basis for flight duties during weekends, festivals or during periods of disagreement with the management over working terms and conditions; are examined by company doctors immediately upon their reporting sick.
- 3.3.1 Airlines shall forward names of such pilots to DGCA along with the recommendation of the company doctor, the same day.
- 3.3.2 DGCA shall refer cases of such pilots for medical examination to AFCME/IAM/MEC(E)/DGCA empaneled Class 1 Medical Examiners for assessment of their medical fitness.
4. Any act on the part of pilots, wherein they pretend to be sick to escape flight duty or report late to the aircraft or do not undertake the flight even after reporting for flight duty or unwilling to follow the dynamic roster well within the FDTL, which results into last minute flight disruptions and may imperil safety of aircraft operations, would be treated as an act against the public interest and shall attract enforcement action against them as per the provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

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