



ICAO

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ACCIDENT
INVESTIGATION GROUP (APAC-AIG/11)**

(Singapore, 16-17 August 2023)

APAC-AIG/11-WP/11

Agenda Item 4

Agenda Item 4: Enhancing Accident Investigation Capabilities

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE AS PART OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION

(Presented by Indonesia)

SUMMARY

This paper highlighted KNKT's consideration to enhance the mental health examination as part of medical examination for safety sensitive personnel.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Annex 1 paragraph 6.2.1 stated that an applicant for a Medical Assessment shall undergo a medical examination which include, among other requirements, physical and mental assessment. The paragraph 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 describes in greater detail the physical and mental requirements which are likely to interfere with the safe operation of an aircraft or with the safe performance of duties.

1.2 The ICAO Annex 2 defines safety-sensitive personnel as persons who might endanger aviation safety if they perform their duties and functions improperly including, but not limited to, crew members, aircraft maintenance personnel and air traffic controllers.

1.3 Mental health conditions include mental, neurological and substance use disorders, suicide risk and associated psychosocial, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities. It is an integral part of our general health and well-being, and a basic human right. Having good mental health means we are better able to connect, function, cope and thrive (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049338>).

1.4 Mental health issues may be difficult to be detected by others and the affected individual may be reluctant to express their mental condition, until more serious consequences appear.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 ICAO has published the SARPs for medical examination which includes physical and mental health.

2.2 Komite Nasional Keselamatan Transportasi (KNKT) has investigated several occurrences related to mental health issues which ranged from flight crew became incapacitated due to stress, to fatally injured ground personnel after impacted with tail rotor of a helicopter.

2.3 The mental health issues were either undetected or unreported because the affected individuals and/or other employees did not recognise the mental health issues, or the affected individuals were reluctant to report the mental health condition as it this might resulted in loss of their licenses. The affected individuals appeared normal until the stressors are manifested and impaired their performance or become incapacitated.

2.4 The Indonesia Aviation Health Facility considered that periodic mental health examination by providing questions related to the mental health risk factors (sleep disturbance, etc) during anamnesis.

2.5 Mental health examination would be beneficial on special circumstances or following stressful events such as post-accident/incident, stressful family events (divorce, partner's death), change in behaviour observe by other employee, or self-report.

2.6 States should enhance the mental health examination to safety sensitive personnel to ensure safe operation and safe performance of duties.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note that States/Administrations should enhance mental health examination especially on special circumstances or after stressful events to safety sensitive personnel.

— END —