



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

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**Protocol for Evaluation of Coronary Heart Disease**

A. Requirements are for consideration for any class of airman medical certification.

1. A 6-month recovery period must elapse after the event (angina, infarction, bypass surgery, angioplasty, or stenting) before consideration can be given for medical certification.

2. Hospital admission summary (history and physical), coronary catheterization report, and operative report regarding all cardiac events and procedures.

3. A current cardiovascular evaluation per FAA Form 8500-19, Cardiovascular Evaluation Specifications, must be submitted. This evaluation must include an assessment of personal and family medical history; a clinical cardiac and general physical examination; an assessment and statement regarding the applicant's medications, functional capacity, modifiable cardiovascular risk factors, motivation for any necessary change, prognosis for incapacitation; and blood chemistries (fasting blood sugar, current blood lipid profile to include total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, and triglycerides).

4. A maximal ECG treadmill stress test must be performed no sooner than 6-months post event. All stress testing should achieve 100 percent of maximal predicted heart rate unless medically contraindicated or prevented either by symptoms, conditioning, or concurrent use of medication, such as, B-blockers, calcium channel blockers (spec. diltiazem or verapamil), and/or digitalis preparations. With the consent of the attending physician, these medications should be discontinued for at least 48 hours prior to testing in order to attain maximal stress.

The blood pressure/pulse recordings at various stages and actual electrocardiographic tracings must be submitted. Tracings must include a rhythm strip, a full 12-lead ECG recorded at rest (supine and standing) and during hyperventilation while standing, one or more times during each stage of exercise, at the end of each stage, at peak exercise, and every minute during recovery for at least 5-minutes or until the tracings return to baseline level. The worksheet and interpretive report must be submitted. Computer-generated, sample cycle electrocardiographic tracings are unacceptable in lieu of the standard tracings.

A **SPECT** myocardial perfusion exercise stress test using technetium agents and/or thallium may be required for consideration for any class if clinically indicated or the exercise stress test is abnormal by any of the usual parameters. The interpretive report and all SPECT images, preferably in black and white, must be submitted. The submission of the raw data on computer disc as well may be helpful.

**NOTE:** If cardiac catheterization and/or coronary angiography have been performed, all reports and the actual films (if films are requested) must be submitted for review. Copies should be made of all films as a safeguard against loss. Films should be labeled with the name of the pilot and a return address.

B. Additional requirements for first or unlimited\* second-class medical certification. The following should be accomplished no sooner than 6-months post event:

1. Post-event coronary angiography. The application may be considered without post-event angiography but certification for first- and unlimited second-class is unlikely without it.

2. A maximal thallium exercise stress test (see item 4).

3. FAA Form 8500-20, Medical Exemption Petition (Operational Questionnaire). The applicant should indicate if a lower class medical certificate is acceptable in the event ineligible for class sought.

Applicants found qualified for an airman medical certificate will be required to provide periodic follow-up cardiovascular evaluations including maximal stress testing. Additional diagnostic testing modalities, including radionuclide studies, may be required if indicated.

No consideration will be given for an Authorization for Special Issuance of a Medical Certificate until all the required data have been received. The use of the applicant's full name, date of birth, and social security number on all correspondence and reports will aid the agency in locating the proper file.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to provide the medical information required to determine his/her eligibility for airman medical certification. In order to expedite processing, it is suggested that the information be sent in ONE MAILING, when possible, to:

Medical Appeals Section, AAM-313  
Aerospace Medical Certification Division  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Post Office Box 26080  
Oklahoma City OK 73125-9914

**OR**

Medical Appeals Section, AAM-313  
Aerospace Medical Certification Division  
Federal Aviation Administration  
6700 S MacArthur Blvd., Room B-13  
Oklahoma City OK 73169

\*Limited second-class medical certificate refers to a second-class certificate with a functional limitation such as, "Not valid for carrying passengers for compensation or hire", "Not valid for pilot in command", "Valid only when serving as a pilot member of a fully qualified two-pilot crew", "Limited to flight engineer duties only", etc.

Attachments: FAA Forms 8500-19 and -20