Medical Certification

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Outline

1. Regulations on Medical Certification
2. Disqualifying Conditions
3. Special Issuances
When do you need one? 14CFR61.23

- not in gliders
- not in balloons
- YES in any powered aircraft
- YES if you are a required crewmember
- In some cases, a driver’s license is a medical certificate
Regulations on Medical Certification

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- In some cases, a driver’s license is a medical certificate
Examples

- CFI with primary student in a C172
  - Needs a medical since acting as PIC
- CFI with primary student in a J-3 Cub
  - Needs no medical since acting as PIC if LSA qualified
- CFI doing checkout in an Archer
  - No, if student is current and has private ASEL or better
- CFI giving complex checkout to a commercial pilot
  - No, if student is current and has category/class ratings
- CFI with student under the hood
  - Yes, since CFI is a required crewmember (14CFR91.109(b)(2))
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Medical certificate requirements depend on privileges exercised:

- ATP privileges require *Class I*
- Commercial privileges require *Class II*
- ... (if a medical is required)
- Private/recreational/student privileges require *Class III*
- ... (if a medical is required)
- LSA privileges require a *valid driver’s license*
- Can’t exercise LSA privileges if your *most recent* medical revoked or deferred
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Disqualifying Conditions

- Angina pectoris
- Bipolar disease
- Cardiac valve replacement
- Coronary heart disease that has been treated or, if untreated, that has been symptomatic or clinically significant
- Diabetes mellitus requiring hypoglycemic medications
- Disturbance of consciousness without satisfactory explanation of cause
- Epilepsy
- Heart replacement
- Myocardial infarction
- Permanent cardiac pacemaker
- Personality disorder that is severe enough to have repeatedly manifested itself by overt acts
- Psychosis
- Substance abuse
- Substance dependence
There are two kinds of special issuance.

- **14CFR67.401 Special issuance of medical certificates**
  
  (a) At the discretion of the Federal Air Surgeon, an Authorization for Special Issuance of a Medical Certificate (Authorization), valid for a specified period, may be granted to a person who does not meet the provisions of subparts B, C, or D of this part if the person shows to the satisfaction of the Federal Air Surgeon that the duties authorized by the class of medical certificate applied for can be performed without endangering public safety during the period in which the Authorization would be in force.

- used for heart problems, diabetes, etc.
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SODA

(b) At the discretion of the Federal Air Surgeon, a Statement of Demonstrated Ability (SODA) may be granted, instead of an Authorization, to a person whose disqualifying condition is *static or nonprogressive* and who has been found capable of performing airman duties without endangering public safety. A SODA does not expire and authorizes a designated aviation medical examiner to issue a medical certificate of a specified class if the examiner finds that the condition described on its face has not adversely changed.

- deficient vision, missing limbs, and other permanent conditions
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a Special Issuance is time–limited
shortest I know is 1 year
a SODA is forever
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• a Special Issuance is time–limited
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How to get an SI

- Take charge of your own medical
  - Find out what the FAA wants
  - give doctors, PAs, nurses, technicians written instructions
  - ask doctors, etc for copies of all test results, notes, and reports
  - keep a copy of everything
  - keep track of dates
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http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/specialissuance/

LOTS of paperwork

Form 8500–2 Medical Exemption Petition (Operational Questionnaire)

All of the documentation they asked for
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Send the package Certified – Return Receipt Requested
Track it
Keep a complete copy
Call once a week
Never ask them to speed it up
Waiting

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Renewal

- some conditions only require AME monitoring
- get the testing done on the indicated date
- GO FLYING!
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