# Colour vision deficiency testing process for pilots - (CD 2404FS)

# Overview

Medical certification for pilots with colour vision deficiency requires an assessment against the medical standards in Part 67 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR)* using a series of tests.

A final determination as to whether a pilot meets the medical standard includes the opportunity to be assessed using an operational assessment. The process for this assessment requires a standardised approach to ensure the assessments are valid and reliable for a safe decision to be made.

We are inviting feedback on a proposal that seeks to formalise 2 testing options for colour vision deficient pilots who are not able to pass initial assessments of colour vision for their aviation medical certificate application.

Pilots will be able to choose either of the tests, depending on their individual circumstances and preferences.

The proposed tests are:

* Australian Operational Colour Vision Assessment (AOCVA)
* Colour Assessment and Diagnostic (CAD) test.

The option to use these tests recognises that many pilots with a colour vision deficiency can demonstrate they are able to operate safely without any medical or operational restrictions.

A pass in either of these proposed tests would satisfy the requirements of a Class 1 or Class 2 medical standard relating to colour vision and allow a medical certificate to be issued without any colour vision related restriction or endorsement.

Our aim is to confirm testing options for pilots by the end of April 2024 and for these to be formally prescribed in a legislative instrument.

An advance copy of the instrument is now available for review.

The instrument will provide certainty for medical examiners, flight examiners and CASA to support pilots with colour vision deficiency to understand and follow the processes for aviation medical certification.

We wish to thank the Aviation Medicine Colour Vision Technical Working Group (TWG), appointed by the [Aviation Safety Advisory Panel](https://www.casa.gov.au/about-us/who-we-work/aviation-safety-advisory-panel/about-aviation-safety-advisory-panel), for their ongoing input and contribution to the development of a workable and fair draft policy proposal that improves outcomes for colour vision affected pilots.

## **Opportunity to comment**

Your feedback will help us make sure the proposed requirements are suitable, the final instrument is clear and it will work as intended.

Please submit your comments using the survey link on this page.

If you are unable to provide feedback via the survey link, please email [regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au](mailto:regulatoryconsultation@casa.gov.au?subject=Consultation%20-%20Colour%20vision%20deficiency%20testing%20process%20for%20pilots%20-%20(CD%202404FS)) for advice.

## **Documents for review**

All documents related to this consultation are attached in the ‘Related’ section at the bottom of the overview page. They are:

* Draft instrument - CASA xx/24 — Colour Vision Assessment Determination 2024
* Schedules 1 and 2 – Colour Vision Assessment

## **What happens next**

At the end of the response period, we will:

* review all comments received
* make responses publicly available on the consultation hub (unless you request your submission remain confidential)
* provide an update through the Consultation Hub on any intended changes and next steps.

All comments received on the proposed instrument will be considered. Relevant feedback that improves upon the proposed instrument will be incorporated into the final instrument.

Material will be made available to support the implementation of the proposal including:

* information and training material for flight examiners on how to assess the AOCVA
* a new Clinical Practice Guideline explaining the assessment process to support medical practitioners
* an update to the Flight Examiner Handbook to align with the policy.

# Give Us Your Views

[Appears on the overview page at the bottom]

Online Survey

[This link is on the front page of the survey and takes you to the survey questions]

## **Related**

[This section is at the bottom of the front page and contains all the links to other sites and documents related to this consultation]

**Related Links**

[Part 67 of CASR – see paragraphs 67.150 (6)(c) and 67.155 (6)(c)](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F1998B00220/latest/text/2" \t "_blank)

**Related Documents**

* Draft Instrument – CASA xx/24 — Colour Vision Assessment Determination 2024
* Schedules 1 and 2 – Colour Vision Assessment
* MS Word copy of online consultation on Colour vision deficiency testing process for pilots - (CD 2404FS)

# Audience & Interest groups

Audience

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| --- |
| * Flight instructors and flight examiners |
| * Flight training operators |
| * Pilots |
| * Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) |
| * Air traffic service provider |
| * School/Education/Aviation Theory Provider |
| * Flight training organisations |
| * Aviation Medical Practitioner (AMP) |
| * Designated Aviation Ophthalmologist or Optometrist (DAO) |
| * Designated Aviation Eye Examiner (DAEE) |
| * Credentialed Optometrist (CO) |

Interest

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| * Sport and recreational aviation |
| * Hazards |
| * Health |
| * Human factors |
| * Safety management systems |
| * Licensing |
| * Operational standards |
| * Flight training |
| * Aviation medicine |
| * Private operations |

# Page 1. Comments on the proposed instrument

If you intend to comment on the proposed instrument for CASA Australian Aviation Colour Vision Assessment, we will ask you for:

* **personal information**, such as your name, any organisation you represent, and your email address
* **your consent** to publish your submission
* **your responses** to the proposed changes in the regulations
* **any comments** you may want to provide
* **demographic information** to help us understand your interest in the instrument

Our [website](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public), contains more information on making a submission and what we do with your feedback.

# Page 2. Personal information

## First name

(Required)

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## Last name

(Required)

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## Email address

If you enter your email address, you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

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## Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

## (Required)

Please select only one item

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation.

No, these are my personal views.

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.

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Which of the following best describes the group you represent?

*Please select all that apply*

Aircraft owner/operator

Pilot

Pilot with colour vision deficiency

Flight examiner

Designated Aviation medical Examiner (DAME)

Designated Aviation Ophthalmologist or Optometrist (DAO)

Designated Aviation eye Examiner (DAEE)

Credentialed Optometrist (CO)

Air traffic service provider

Other

Please specify ‘Other’ if selected.

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# Page 3. Consent to publish submission

To provide transparency and promote debate, we intend to publish all responses to this consultation. This may include both detailed responses/submissions in full and aggregated data drawn from the responses received.

Where you consent to publication, we will include:

* **your last name** if the submission is made by you as an individual
* **the name of the organisation** on whose behalf the submission has been made
* **your responses** and comments

We **will not** include any other personal or demographic information in a published response.

Do you give permission for your response to be published?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes – I give permission for my response/submission to be published.

No – I would like my response/submission to remain confidential but understand that de-identified aggregate data may be published.

I am a CASA officer.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on our [**website**](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public)**.**

# Page 4. How the proposed instrument will work in practice

When a pilot is found at their initial aviation medical examination to have a possible colour vision deficiency (CVD) using the screening tests under paragraph 67.150 (6)(a) of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR)* (Ishihara Pseudoisochromatic Plates), they will be issued with an initial medical certificate with restrictions. They can then choose to undergo a further assessment to confirm the presence of CVD using the Farnsworth Lantern test under paragraph 67.150 (6)(b) of CASR. If the CVD is confirmed, their medical certificate will be continued with restrictions.

Pilots can then choose to undergo a formal comprehensive assessment to determine whether their colour vision deficiency means they don’t meet the medical standard under paragraph 67.150 (6)(c) of CASR.

The proposed instrument determines that the 2 tests available to meet the requirements of paragraphs 67.150 (6)(c) and 67.155 (6)(c) of CASR, are the:

* Australian Operational Colour Vision Assessment (AOCVA), and
* Colour Assessment and Diagnosis (CAD) test.

If the pilot meets the standard using the AOCVA or CAD, they will be issued an aviation medical certificate that does not include any restrictions or conditions related to their CVD status.

If the pilot does not meet the standard using AOCVA or CAD, they may be issued a restricted or conditional medical certificate based on the nature of their eye disease and colour vision deficiency.

These will be assessed on an individual basis using guidance provided in the Clinical Practice Guideline.

The conduct of the 3 components of the AOCVA, described at Schedule 1 of the Instrument will be described in detail in the Flight Examiner Handbook. Clinical Practice Guidelines will also be developed for medical practitioners.

## Do you have any comments about the proposed instrument?

Comments

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