

UK CAA Policy Statement: Colour Vision in Air traffic Controllers

PART.ATCO.MED.B.075 (reproduced below) of the EU Regulation 206/2011 and its Annexes sets out the requirements for colour vision testing of applicants for EU Class 3 medical certificates.

ATCO.MED.B.070 Visual system

(a) Examination:

- (1) A comprehensive eye examination shall form part of the initial examination and be undertaken periodically depending on the refraction and the functional performance of the eye.

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(b) Comprehensive eye examination

A comprehensive eye examination by an eye specialist is required at the initial examination. All abnormal and doubtful cases should be referred to an ophthalmologist. The examination should include:

- (1) history;
- (2) visual acuities — near, intermediate and distant vision; uncorrected and with best optical correction if needed;
- (3) objective refraction — hyperopic initial applicants with a hyperopia of more than +2 dioptres and under the age of 25 in cycloplegia;
- (4) ocular motility and binocular vision;
- (5) colour vision;
- (6) visual fields;
- (7) tonometry;
- (8) examination of the external eye, anatomy, media (slit lamp) and funduscopy;
- (9) assessment of contrast and glare sensitivity.

ATCO.MED.B.075 Colour vision

Applicants shall be normal trichromates.

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(a) Pseudoisochromatic plate testing alone is not sufficient.

(b) Colour vision should be assessed using means to demonstrate normal trichromacy.

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The means to demonstrate normal trichromacy include:

- (a) anomaloscopy (Nagel or equivalent). This test is considered passed if the colour match is trichromatic and the matching range is four scale units or less;
- (b) Colour Assessment and Diagnosis (CAD) test.

- In the UK, all Aeromedical Centres (AeMCs) shall use the CAD test to measure the colour thresholds for initial applicants for EU class 3 certificates.
- If the CAD test demonstrates thresholds for R-G for 1.79 or less with a diagnosis of normal trichromacy, the test is considered acceptable for certificate issue
- If the CAD test demonstrates thresholds of 1.79-2.35 CAD units, the result must be referred to the CAA. Additional testing may be required, but with reference to CAP 1429, thresholds between these values will normally be accepted as being of a functionally normal trichromat, i.e. there is a very mild colour deficiency but the applicant performs the same as people with normal colour vision.