

# Guidelines for implementation of alcohol testing for flight crew etc.

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Flight Standards Division, Airworthiness Division  
Aviation Safety and Security Department  
Japan Civil Aviation Bureau  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

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## 1. Purpose

This circular are intended to stipulate detailed regulations necessary to examine the matters regarding alcohol testing for flight crew, cabin crew, flight dispatchers, flight dispatch officers, flight dispatcher assistants, and maintenance staffs (hereinafter referred to as “flight crew, etc.”) stipulated in the Operational Manuals, the Maintenance Manuals and the Approved Organization Exposition based on 2-3, 2-4 and 3-5 of Chapter II, 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4 of Chapter III, and 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4 of Chapter IV of the Detailed Regulations on the Review Procedures for the Operational Manuals (January 28, 2000; KU-KOU-78), 2-3-2 of Section II of the Guideline for Evaluating Maintenance Manuals & Detailed Implementation Procedure (January 28, 2000; KU-KI-74), and 5-2-1 of Part IV of the General Policy for Approved Organizations (May 19, 2000; KU-KI-561).

## 2. Testing

The following methods and device shall be used to conduct alcohol testing for flight crew etc.:

### (1) Test Methods

- a. An alcohol testing must be conducted for flight crew and cabin crew before and after a series of flights<sup>\*1</sup>; for flight dispatchers, flight dispatch officers and flight dispatcher assistants, it must be conducted before they engage in communication with an aircraft; for maintenance staffs, it must be conducted before they start maintenance work. This testing must be conducted using an alcohol detection device to make sure that they are not under the influence of alcohol<sup>\*2</sup>.
- b. For prevention of irregularities (impersonation, evasion, etc.) in the testing, in principle, proper conduct of the testing must be ensured in the presence<sup>\*4</sup> of a third party<sup>\*3</sup> who received necessary alcohol testing training and is found appropriate by the air carrier or the approved organization.
- c. Alcohol testing results (testing date, flight number [limited to flight crew and cabin crew],

the names of tester and observer, numerical value, etc.) must be recorded and retained for at least one year\*5.

- \*1 The term “a series of flights” means consecutive flights that need preparation, etc. for the next flight in the aircraft (limited to flights where the interval between scheduled or actual flights is within two hours).
- \*2 The lower limit displayed on the device and the measurement method (number of retries, etc.) may be the lower limit and the measurement method that are defined by the manufacturer to accurately detect breath alcohol content in view of the effect of instrument error or alcohol component inside the mouth or in the air.
- \*3 Understanding the meaning of third party for the testing subjects is as shown in the table below:

Testing subjects	Third party
Flight crew	Those other than flight crew and cabin crew
Cabin crew	
Aircraft dispatchers, aircraft dispatch officers or aircraft dispatcher assistants	Those other than personnel engaged in flight dispatch operations
Maintenance staff	Those other than maintenance staffs

- \*4 The presence of an observer may be rendered unnecessary when a third party uses a monitor, etc. for remote confirmation or takes other equivalent measures to prevent irregularities in the testing or when the aircraft lands on an airport, etc. which is not usually used due to unexpected situation, such as mechanical troubles during flight. In regard to cabin crew, flight dispatchers, flight dispatch officers, flight dispatcher assistants and maintenance staffs, the presence of a third party may be rendered unnecessary when the testing is confirmed between testing subjects under the supervision of a designated person in charge of operations and when two or more other testing subjects confirm the testing on a person in charge of operations.

The presence of an observer may be rendered unnecessary for a post-flight alcohol testing, if any of the following conditions is met:

- In a case that an aircraft with no door between the cockpit and the cabin is used
- In a case that the air carrier checks the belongings of flight crew or cabin crew to ensure that they do not possess any alcohol, and flight crew or cabin crew are found to be less likely to drink alcohol since it is not sold on the cabin and they are unable to obtain it during flight

- \*5 If a flight crew member, etc. fails to pass the testing, the testing record must be retained until one year has elapsed from the date of his/her retirement.

(2) Alcohol detection device

The alcohol detection device to be used for the testing must meet the following specifications:

- a. Alcohol concentration can be measured based on a certain quantity of expiration, and numerical value can be displayed.
- b. The unit of alcohol concentration value to be displayed must be 0.01mg/ℓ or less.
- c. The alcohol detection device to be used must be managed and used properly in accordance with the instructions defined by the manufacturer.

Supplementary Provisions (January 31, 2019)

1. This Circular shall be applicable on January 31, 2019.

Supplementary Provisions (July 5, 2019)

1. This Circular shall be applicable on July 5, 2019