



## Safety Management System

# Safety Bulletin

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## Drug and Alcohol Management for Gliding clubs

A gliding club relies on the combined efforts of a vast integrated network of skilled people; pilots and ground crew, maintenance engineers, tow pilots, winch drivers are just some of those working behind the scenes. They are all interconnected in a way that a single bad decision in one area can affect all the rest.

In aviation, to operate safely, risks must be managed. One risk that can be removed is mistakes made by those affected by alcohol or other drugs. Alcohol and other drugs seriously affect performance.

Gliding clubs are not required to have a Drug and Alcohol Management Plan under the Regulations (CASR Part 99) but should implement measures under their Safety management System (SMS) to ensure that persons who perform, or are available to perform, any of the specified 'safety sensitive aviation activities' (SSAAs) set out in [CASR Part 99.015](#) are drug and alcohol free.

### What are 'safety sensitive aviation activities'

Safety Sensitive Aviation Activities (SSAA) are those activities that have a direct or indirect impact on the safe operation of an aircraft. For example, flight crew, cabin crew, ground handlers, maintenance, aircraft dispatchers, aviation security, refuelers, air experience participants and anyone who is working airside. The regulations provide a full list in CASR Part 99.015.

**NOTE:** While the legislation excludes passengers, GFA considers a person who occupies a seat with functioning controls to be involved in a SSAA.

Persons conducting a SSAA:

- Must not perform or be available to perform SSAA if they are aware that they are adversely affected by drugs or alcohol.
- Should disclose if they have consumed alcohol or are taking a drug that may affect their ability to carry out their duties.
- Should seek support and assistance services if drug and alcohol use has become problematic.
- Must know their Club's Drug & Alcohol Management Policy and what responsibilities they have in maintaining compliance.

## **What medications can I take when performing SSAA?**

GFA cannot provide advice in relation to what medications you can or cannot take or advice on quantities. Medications and combinations of medications affect individuals in different ways. Your doctor, pharmacist or Designated Aviation Medical Examiner (DAME) is the person to seek advice from.

You also have a responsibility to advise your CFI or Duty Instructor if you are taking any medications which could affect your fitness for SSAA duties, or if it contains a testable substance.

## **What if I test positive to a CASA random test?**

You must cease SSAA immediately. The case will be reviewed by the CASA Medical Review Officer (MRO) and if the result is verified as a positive, a comprehensive assessment would be conducted.

The assessment may recommend an intervention program such as education, counselling and/or treatment.

An MRO must be satisfied that the person is fit to return to work and a negative test result is received at the time.

## **What if I refuse to take a drug or alcohol test? Or interfere with test?**

It is considered to be a positive test result. You must immediately cease SSAA.

Before returning to SSAA you will need to be taken through CASA's response program.

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