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MEDICAL REASONS OF DISQUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL PILOTS IN THAILAND

RAISONS MÉDICALES DES PILOTES COMMERCIAUX DISQUALIFIÉS EN THAÏLANDE

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Introduction: In Thailand, flight commercial business is extensively expanding as well as pilot requirement. Pilot's retirement in Thailand is at the age of sixty years-old and could be extended to 65 years maximum. Permanent loss of commercial pilot license in Thailand has never been studied.

Method: Data have been collected from the RTAF Institute of Aviation Medicine and The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) for 8 years (2010-2017). Files of all disqualified pilots were reviewed and analysed to group in categories. Rates of each disqualification reason were calculated.

Results: In a total of 25,806 pilot years, there were 17 cases of permanent loss of commercial pilot license. The average of 8 years disqualification rate is 0.659 per 1,000 pilot-years. The causes were 11 case of somatic diseases and 6 cases of mental and personality disorder.

Discussion: Compared with international data from Sweden and Norway, the permanent loss of pilot license in Thailand is rather very low but the ratio of mental problems to somatic diseases is higher than the international data. For somatic diseases in Thailand, the disqualification rate for cancer and visual problems are higher than in the international data. For cardiovascular diseases, the disqualification rate in Thai commercial pilot is lower than the international data.

Conclusion: This is the first study regarding permanent loss of commercial pilot license in Thailand. The results should bring us to seek specific target prevention and health promotion for Thai commercial pilots.