



CC/ATCG/Operations/2022/01

5<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

**The Chairman**  
**Airports Authority of India**  
**CHQ, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan**  
**New Delhi -110 003.**

**Sub.: Request for suspension of Breath Analyzer Test for ATCOs due to surge in COVID -19 spread.**

Sir,

Reference may please be made to DGCA Order no. DGCA-15031/4/2020-DAS dt. 29.03.2020, vide which DGCA had suspended Breath Analyzer Test for Aviation Personnel due to extraordinary circumstances in view of outbreak of COVID-19 and also in view of directions of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

We have already lost many of our beloved colleagues during COVID-19 second wave leaving their families still struggling for their livelihood as AAI could not provide employment for the survivor spouses, we do not want history to repeat itself and expect a fair protection from our employer, DGCA and MOCA during this ongoing pandemic.

ATCOs have contributed their maximum during recovery period of Indian Aviation sector post second wave of pandemic and due to operational and essential service nature of job, we do not have privilege of working from home during pandemic like other non-operational staff of AAI.

Presently, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading in our country with a fast pace along with its predecessor variants. The ATCOs are the most essential element of this essential service provided by AAI as an ANSP as the whole Indian Aviation sector will come to a halt if these professionals get infected by this virus.

Breath Analyzer Test has been made mandatory for airside operations staff from 2019 as per the DGCA Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR). During BA test, the machines cannot spread COVID-19 virus but the environment in which BA test is conducted needs to be given due consideration. BA test is conducted in a small closed room for ATCOs, while undergoing BA test, mask is removed and exhalation is done in BA test machine. This process can release droplets inside room, which may affect subsequent officer undergoing BA test.

If any ATCO is infected then BA test procedures which are against COVID appropriate behavior enforced by Government may accelerate the spread of COVID among ATCOs impacting safe aircraft operations as AAI is already struggling due to shortage of ATCOs and got relaxation from Competent Authority in implementation of CARs like Watch Duty Time Limitation (WDTL) on the same ground. Any risk on health of ATCOs is unaffordable for AAI and may lead to collapsing

of system due to medical fitness requirement of ATC license and safety critical nature of job performed by these highly skilled officials.

Government of India and State Governments are doing their best efforts to save the citizens by putting restrictions to contain the spread of this deadly virus, some States have already ordered curfews and restricted public meetings. The circumstances are again turning to be extraordinary and need extraordinary relaxation in regulations for safety of ATCOs and their family members for smooth run of operations.

**Hence, we humbly request you to take up this matter urgently with DGCA and MOCA for temporary suspension of BA Test for protecting ATCOs from becoming medically unfit and losing their license privileges for provision of uninterrupted ATS Services.**

Your kind and necessary action will definitely boost the morale of hardworking ATCOs.

Assuring you our best cooperation.

With regards,



(Alok Yadav)

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi-110003.
2. The Director General of Civil Aviation, Opposite Safdarjung Airport, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110003.
3. The Member (ANS), Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi-110003.