National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

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February 18, 2016

Reply to Attn of: Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: Chief Health and Medical Officer

SUBJECT: NASA Interim Directive (NID): Medical Certification of Commercial Personnel Crewing Space Activities Involving NASA Personnel

The purpose of this NID is to issue policy direction related to the medical certification of commercial flight personnel who control the operation of spacecraft on space missions contracted by NASA and involving NASA personnel. The intent is to assure the health and safety of all NASA personnel participating in a commercially provided space mission. NASA currently requires commercial crew members involved in commercial transportation to the International Space Station to meet the NASA and ISS medical certification standards. This policy direction provides the requirements for other commercially provided flight activities, excluding sub-orbital activities, on which NASA personnel are flying.

This NID will be in effect until superseded by incorporation of the Policy as supplemental information into OCHMO 80771201MED, NASA Crewmembers Medical Standards, Volume I – Selection and Periodic Certification or via another mechanism, by the Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer.

Policy

1.0 All commercial flight crews who control the operation of a spacecraft or its systems on space missions (orbital, flights beyond Earth orbit) contracted by NASA, and carrying NASA personnel, shall meet NASA spaceflight medical certification standards.

1.1 NASA personnel are defined as any NASA employee (e.g., astronaut, scientist, engineer, etc.) or equivalent (e.g. payload specialist) who are onboard the commercially provided mission for any reason (e.g., passenger, operational testing, conducting scientific experiments, hardware validation and testing, etc.).

2.0 NASA medical certification of commercial flight crews shall be based on the current medical certification standards and policies contained in OCHMO 80771201MED, NASA Crewmembers Medical Standards, Volume I – Selection and Periodic Certification.

3.0 The requirements of this policy shall be incorporated into any contractual mechanism NASA enters into with a commercial provider for human space flight activities.

Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS