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FLIGHT TESTS

The Department of Civil Aviation requires flight tests to be undertaken to ensure that the flight characteristics and the functioning in flight of any aircraft do not differ significantly from those on which the aircraft type certificate was based. Aircraft are required to be tested in accordance with Airworthiness Flight Test Schedules published by the DCA or Operators Test Schedules, approved by the DCA, which contain as a minimum all the tests in the related Airworthiness Flight Test Schedules.

In order that the DCA may accept reports on flight test matters, the qualifications and experience of personnel involved in flight testing shall be acceptable to the DCA. The acceptability of a pilot will be evaluated against his competence, having regard to his previous conduct and experience and his familiarity with the appropriate test schedule, flight test technique and safety precautions. To this end, Operators are required to submit names and details of relevant experience for the nominated pilots to the DCA Flight Operation Division in advance of the required testing. Acceptance of the pilot for the task may be given upon completion of a flight test brief and upon issuance of a Letter of Appointment. If necessary, DCA will conduct flight demonstrations, using the Operator's aircraft, on a specific flight test technique. The pilot must accept, and it must be recognized by all concerned, that he is responsible for the integrity of the conduct of the tests and of the results submitted.

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