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For immediate release

CAAM STRENGTHENS AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED NATIONAL SAFEGUARDS

PUTRAJAYA – The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) has introduced enhanced regulatory measures to strengthen fitness-for-duty requirements and prevent alcohol and drug misuse among aviation personnel performing safety-critical functions, as part of its continued commitment to safeguarding the safety, security and integrity of Malaysia's civil aviation system.

On 7 August 2026, CAAM issued Safety Directive 02/2026 – Strengthening Fitness-for-Duty and Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Misuse, introducing enhanced requirements for flight crew and cabin crew performing safety-critical functions.

Among the immediate measures introduced, Malaysian airlines are required to conduct drug testing covering 100 per cent of active flight crew and cabin crew members within the prescribed implementation period.

Operators are also required to increase unannounced random alcohol and drug testing, conduct immediate reasonable-suspicion testing where there are indicators of possible impairment, and review recruitment, background verification and recurrent screening processes for personnel holding security passes.

In addition, operators are required to undertake a comprehensive review of their Alcohol and Drug Testing Programme (ADTP), conduct safety risk assessments relating to alcohol and drug misuse, and submit declarations of compliance, testing results and corrective action plans to CAAM.

These requirements are supported by enhanced CAAM oversight through risk-based surveillance, unannounced inspections and focused audits on the implementation of alcohol and drug testing requirements. CAAM will also verify testing records and may require additional testing where safety concerns are identified.

Dato' Captain Norazman Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer of CAAM, said the enhanced measures demonstrate CAAM's proactive approach to addressing emerging risks and reinforcing safeguards across the aviation sector.

“Safety-critical personnel carry a significant responsibility in ensuring the safety of every flight. CAAM therefore expects the highest standards of fitness, professionalism and accountability from all personnel entrusted with these responsibilities.

These measures strengthen detection and compliance while reinforcing a culture where fitness-for-duty is a fundamental component of aviation safety.”

CAAM’s regulatory actions are aligned with the Government’s broader efforts to strengthen security controls, screening and risk management at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and other international entry points.

Among the immediate measures identified by the Government are enhanced risk-based screening involving passengers, crew and baggage; strengthened vetting and access controls for aviation and airport personnel; and enhanced pre-employment, periodic and random drug screening for pilots, cabin crew and related personnel.

CAAM will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Transport (MOT), Ministry of Home Affairs (KDN) and other relevant agencies to support the implementation of these measures within its regulatory purview. These coordinated efforts complement CAAM’s ongoing regulatory actions and further strengthen the management of safety and security risks across Malaysia’s aviation sector.

Where regulatory breaches are identified, CAAM will exercise its statutory enforcement powers in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

CAAM remains committed to continuously strengthening its regulatory framework and oversight mechanisms to ensure Malaysia’s civil aviation system remains safe, secure and trusted.

About Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia

The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is the national aviation regulator responsible for ensuring the safety, security and efficiency of Malaysia’s civil aviation sector. CAAM also provides air navigation services and safeguards aviation consumer rights in accordance with applicable national requirements and international standards.

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