

Issued: 6 October 2014

Aeromedical Advisory Service for Medical Certificate Holders and Applicants

This Information Notice contains information that is for guidance and/or awareness.

Recipients are asked to ensure that this Information Notice is copied to all members of their staff who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability:	
Aerodromes:	Not primarily affected
Air Traffic:	Not primarily affected
Airspace:	Not primarily affected
Airworthiness:	Not primarily affected
Flight Operations:	Not primarily affected
Licensed/Unlicensed Personnel:	All pilots, ATCOs and other medical certificate holders; All AMEs and AeMCs; All cabin crew; GMPs and OHMPs.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Regulations medical certificate applicants and holders are obliged to seek aeromedical advice from an Aero Medical Examiner (AME) or Aeromedical Centre (AeMC) in the event of a decrease in medical fitness. The CAA's Authority Medical Section (AMS) aeromedical advisory service will no longer be accessible to medical certificate applicants and holders from 6 October 2014 AMEs and AeMCs will continue to have access to the AMS aeromedical advisory service. General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) and Occupational Health medical Practitioners (OHMPs) will be unaffected as they will continue to contact an AME for aeromedical advice when necessary.

2 Scope

- 2.1 The UK implemented Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011 of 3 November 2011 (the Aircrew Regulation), Annex IV (Part-MED) in September 2012.
- 2.2 The Aircrew Regulation requires that holders of Class 1, Class 2 or Light Aircraft Pilot Licence (LAPL) certificates and (since April 2014) cabin crew shall seek aeromedical advice if they experience a decrease in medical fitness, as follows:

"MED.A.020 Decrease in medical fitness

- (b) *In addition, licence holders shall, without undue delay, seek aero-medical advice when they:*

- (1) have gone a surgical operation or invasive procedure;*
- (2) have commenced the regular use of any medication;*
- (3) have suffered any significant personal injury involving incapacity to function as a member of the flight crew;*
- (4) have been suffering from any significant illness involving incapacity to function as a member of the flight crew;*
- (5) are pregnant;*
- (6) have been admitted to hospital or medical clinic;*
- (7) first require correcting lenses.*

(c) In these cases:

- (1) holders of Class 1 and Class 2 medical certificates shall seek the advice of an AeMC or AME. The AeMC or AME shall assess the medical fitness of the licence holder and decide whether they are fit to resume the exercise of their privileges;*
- (2) holders of LAPL medical certificates shall seek the advice of an AeMC or AME, or the GMP who signed the medical certificate. The AeMC, AME or GMP shall assess the medical fitness of the licence holders and decide whether they are fit to resume the exercise of their privileges.*

(e) In addition, if in the medical conditions specified in (b)(1) to (b)(5), cabin crew members shall, without undue delay, seek the advice of an AME, AeMC, or OHMP as applicable. The AME, AeMC or OHMP shall assess the medical fitness of the cabin crew members and decide whether they are fit to resume their safety duties."

- 2.3 The UK CAA Medical Department has been gradually transitioning its operational procedures to align with the EASA Regulations and other European States. Historically, medical certificate holders have had direct access to a medical advisory service provided by the CAA. As part of the continuing alignment process this service will close on 6 October 2014 with certificate holders thereafter directed to their AME, AeMC or GMP for aeromedical advice, in accordance with Part-MED. All AMEs and AeMCs have been using AME Online since September 2012 and all therefore have access to the aeromedical records of their pilots and Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs).
- 2.4 AMEs and AeMCs will continue to have direct access to advice from the Authority Medical Section when required.
- 2.5 Under MED.A.025 'Obligations of AeMC, AME, GMP and OHMP' (b) (1), AMEs or AeMCs may refer a decision on medical fitness to the competent authority; in the UK this is the UK CAA. GMPs should continue to refer applicants for a LAPL who do not fully meet the medical requirements to AMEs and AeMCs in accordance with MED.B.001 (b) (1).
- 2.6 In addition an individual may appeal against the refusal of a medical certificate or the imposition of a limitation.
- 2.7 In the circumstances described in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 AMEs are able to follow the progress of referrals, secondary reviews and appeal cases through the AME Online system and update the applicant/certificate holder accordingly. The AMS will continue to correspond directly with applicants/certificate holders on fitness decisions, secondary review and appeal decisions.