

Until the implementation of EASA Medical Requirements, the policy of the CAA is to assess for medical certification to JAR-FCL 3 standards. Where one or more of these standards is not fully met, but an equivalent level of safety can be demonstrated, the applicant may be assessed for a JAR medical certificate issued as a Deviation. In this case, the medical certificate will be endorsed in accordance with JAR-FCL 1.015. The CAA will not issue Deviations which jeopardise compliance with ICAO. Accordingly, these medical certificates will be fully ICAO compliant.

JAR medical certificates issued by the UK CAA as Deviations can be used to validate UK-issued pilot licences and restrict the holder to flying UK registered aircraft only.

For the purposes of this policy, if a Deviation is likely to be removed, it is described as 'short-term' and if it is likely to be permanent it is described as 'long-term'.

Use of Deviations

The CAA has identified a number of areas where Deviations may be considered.

1. Where there is a different initial standard from the revalidation/renewal standard

The most common use of a short-term deviation is where there is a difference between the initial and revalidation/renewal medical standard. If the need for the difference in standard is due to a different anticipated adverse effect on flight safety of pilot incapacitation of an inexperienced compared to an experienced pilot, the UK CAA will accept the mitigation of risk that increases with experience. In this circumstance an initial certificate may be issued with a Deviation (allowing flying training to be undertaken in the UK) with a view to removing it once appropriate experience has been gained. The UK CAA defines this experience as being equivalent to completion of flying training to the licence standard and demonstration of competency in the skills test. The Deviation can thus be removed at licence issue if there has been no progression of the medical condition.

2. Where medical evidence and medical developments support an equivalent level of safety

A long-term deviation may be issued if new medical developments support the issue of a medical certificate which is precluded by JAR-FCL 3. The UK CAA will, in this circumstance, contribute to the medical rule-making process to propose an amendment to the medical requirements. If the medical requirements are subsequently amended, the Deviation may be removed if the requirements allow the condition or treatment.

Revalidation/Renewal of a Medical Certificate issued as a Deviation

Pilots with a Deviation on their medical certificate and/or licence should attend for revalidation/renewal with a UK approved AME.

*Important Caveat

Following the implementation of the EASA rules (anticipated 2012-1014), it is possible that EASA may have the power to revoke medical certificates issued as a Deviation. Holders of such medical certificates should be aware of this risk.

Certificate holders who are eligible for the removal of the deviation on gaining their licence should aim to have achieved this prior to the implementation of the EASA requirements.

R Hunter
Head Aeromedical Section
June 2010

Suggested text to be included in letters issued with medical certificates issued as a deviation:

I am pleased to assess you as fit for JAA Class ... medical certification issued as a deviation. Your deviation is to be considered *short-term/long-term (*delete)

Your medical certificate is ICAO compliant and is valid on UK registered aircraft only. You may use it to exercise the privileges of a UK licence in international airspace. However, if you wish to fly an aircraft registered in another state, you will need to obtain the permission of the licensing authority of that state.

Please note that the European Aviation Safety Agency is developing medical requirements that are likely to be implemented in the UK between 2012 and 2014. As your medical certificate, which has been issued as a deviation, may not be EASA compliant, you should be aware that there is a risk to the maintenance of your medical certification beyond this date.

Our policy regarding medical certificates issued as a deviation is enclosed, and I draw your attention to the guidance regarding types of deviation and how they might be removed.

Case specific text re removal/review etc