



Miscellaneous

No: 1408

Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011

Publication date: 3 August 2020

Regulation (EU) No. 2015/340

General Exemption E 5121

Covid-19 Outbreak: Extension of Validity Periods for Medical Certificates of Aircrew, Cabin Crew and Air Traffic Controllers

- 1) In response to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid-19 outbreak and in line with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) guidance, the Civil Aviation Authority ('the CAA'), on behalf of the United Kingdom (UK), with the consent of the Secretary of State and pursuant to article 71(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1139, exempts pilots, cabin crew and air traffic controllers ('ATCOs') for whom the CAA is the competent authority from the requirements under Commission Regulations (EU) 1178/2011 and (EU) 2015/340 as specified in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, as appropriate, subject to the conditions stated in paragraph 5.
- 2) Subject to the conditions in paragraph 5, **pilots** are exempted from the standard validity and related time periods of valid Part-MED Class 1, 2 and LAPL medical certificates¹ issued in accordance with Annex IV (Part-MED) to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011 in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).
 - a) The validity periods of those certificates that expire on or after 16 March 2020, but before 31 August 2020, are extended until 22 November 2020.
 - b) The validity periods of those certificates that expire on or after 1 September 2020, but before 22 November 2020, are extended for a maximum of 45 days but no later than 31 December 2020, whichever is the sooner.
- 3) Subject to the conditions in paragraph 5, **ATCOs** are exempted from the standard validity and related time periods of valid Part-ATCO.MED Class 3 medical certificates issued in accordance with Annex IV (Part-ATCO MED) as per sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) below:
 - a) The validity periods of those certificates that expire on or after 23 March 2020, but before 31 August 2020, are extended until 22 November 2020.
 - b) The validity periods of those certificates that expire on or after 1 September 2020, but before 30 November 2020, are extended for a maximum of 45 days but no later than 31 December 2020, whichever is the sooner.
- 4) Subject to the conditions in paragraph 5, **cabin crew** are exempted from the standard validity and related time periods of valid cabin crew medical reports as per MED.C.030 issued in accordance with Annex IV (Part-MED) to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1178/2011 that expire on or after 23 March 2020 but before 31 October 2020, which periods are extended until 22 November 2020.

¹ See MED.A.045.

- 5) The conditions mentioned in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are that:
- a) **Part-MED medical certificate and cabin crew medical report holders** must not have experienced a reduction in medical fitness in accordance with MED.A.020, ATCO.MED.020 or MED.C.030.
 - b) **Part-MED medical certificate and cabin crew medical report holders who** are under additional medical surveillance (e.g. by their AME, OHMP or the CAA) should continue to comply with the specified requirements (e.g. provision of reports) imposed by their AME, OHMP or the CAA. Failure to do so may invalidate their medical certificate or report and/or the applicability of this exemption to them. If difficulties arise the certificate/report holder should contact their AME or OHMP as appropriate who may need to be advised by the CAA.
 - c) **Class 2 and LAPL medical certificate holders** should, where possible in relation to their flying activities, consider the medical self-declaration system to reduce pressure on the availability of the AME medical examination system to maintain the medical certification of licence holders undertaking commercial air operations and air navigation service provision on behalf of the UK aviation industry.
- 6) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 31 December 2020, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

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for the Civil Aviation Authority

3 August 2020

Notes:

1. The CAA is aware that individual licence holders may have difficulties in attending medical examinations for the purpose of revalidating and renewing medical certificates during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. This exemption does not preclude the renewal of medical certificates, in fact the CAA now recommends that the holders of Class 1 and Class 3 Medical certificates take all possible steps to renew such certificates so long as the participants do not breach legal prohibitions relating to work and travel activities, Government COVID-19 public health guidance, and CAA guidance to AMEs relating to the conduct of medical examinations.
2. Any questions or queries regarding the application of this exemption should be made, in the first instance, to the Aero-Medical Examiner (Pilots and ATCOs) or Occupational Health Medical Practitioner (Cabin Crew) who last issued the medical certificate or report.
3. The CAA will continue to keep this exemption under review and react as necessary to the circumstances which are expected to change.
4. When taking advantage of this exemption, to demonstrate compliance with the regulations, aircrew, cabin crew and ATCOs should carry their (expired) medical certificate and a copy of the exemption notice as part of their flight crew licence or cabin crew attestation documentation.
5. A Class 1 or 2 medical certificate is still required if operating outside UK airspace, and for those

holding a LAPL licence a LAPL medical certificate is required to be held to operate within European Economic Area airspace.

6. All recreational pilots should be aware of HM Government's and the relevant devolved Government's current positions on recreational flying, prior to any flights.
7. The CAA is looking at the use of Self-Declaration of Medicals for UK EASA Medical certificate holders at Class 2 and LAPL Medical level, as this would assist commercial pilots in returning to ICAO norms as soon as possible, such Declarations would be restricted to flights within UK airspace, we hope to publish further information shortly.
8. This exemption replaces the medical elements of exemptions previously published in ORS4 Numbers 1381, 1383, 1384 and 1385.