

Helicopter PIC hours

Experience crediting for CPL(A) applicants

1. This notice informs you of a change in CAA policy in relation to modular CPL(A) course PIC crediting that will be permitted to QMP(H) and CPL(H) pilots. This notice confirms that this amended policy is now effective.
2. Following UK CAA discussions with EASA, it has been decided that helicopter PIC time recognised under Appendix 3, Section E, Para 12(e) of EU Reg 1178/2011 (The Aircrew Regulation) may be credited towards CPL(A) PIC requirements at Para 12(a), as well as total experience requirements. The PIC crediting includes cross-country PIC, subject to a requirement that the qualifying cross country itself must be completed in a fixed wing aircraft by all applicants, as part of the CPL(A) modular course.
3. The crediting relates to the PIC experience requirements outlined at Appendix 3, Section E, Para 12 only. ATOs' HoTs should therefore be aware, for example, that CPL(A) candidates wishing to complete the skills test in a multi-engine aeroplane must have completed 70 hours as PIC in aeroplanes and that no rotary PIC cross-crediting will be permitted. This is an explicit requirement stated elsewhere in Annex 1 to the Aircrew Regulation and will not be 'flexed'.
4. Please note that draft Aircrew Regulation amendments currently being developed by EASA, in cooperation with its 32 Member States, indicate that the PIC experience requirements applicable to an applicant for a CPL(A) licence may soon explicitly include a minimum of 50 hours PIC on aeroplanes. This change is likely to come into effect during 2018. If so, the changed UK CAA policy explained at para 2, above, will automatically be superseded and withdrawn by virtue of the European legislation.
5. When this takes place, the transition date will be determined by the date of entry into force of amendments to EU Reg 1178/2011 and will not be flexed in any circumstances. At that point, as under the currently notified policy, only fixed wing PIC time gained in the course of training towards or after issue of a Part-FCL licence or that recognised under terms agreed with 22 Group RAF and included in the Military Accreditation Scheme will be recognised as counting towards the total required 50 hours fixed wing PIC time.