

UK CAA Asthma Class 1/2 Certification Guidance

Initial Class 1 applicants or Class 1 holders with a new diagnosis of asthma require review by a CAA Consultant Advisor in Respiratory Medicine.

Class 1 holders with an established diagnosis of asthma who are stable, or **initial Class 2 applicants**, require local respiratory specialist review

Risks to Aviation of Asthma include:

- Sudden incapacitation
- Subtle incapacitation
- Susceptibility to aircraft fumes or smoke
- Hypoxaemia

Key features of concern that may be disqualifying:

- Severe asthma likely to reduce operational efficiency
- Brittle asthmatics
- Repeated courses of oral steroids
- Poor control on inhaled cortico-steroids
- Hospital/A&E attendance
- Frequent exacerbations
- Those requiring UNACCEPTABLE medication eg:
 - Oral steroids
 - Oral theophylline
 - Steroid-sparing agents eg methotrexate, cyclosporins, azathioprine

Required Investigations:

- Standard Spirometry (Lung Function Tests)
- AND
- Bronchial Reactivity Test: either 6 minute free running test (see separate Bronchial Reactivity Test Form) OR a Chemical Challenge with histamine/metacholine/mannitol

Acceptable Treatment:

In accordance with [British Thoracic Society \(BTS\) Guidelines](#)

The following medication is ACCEPTABLE for certification:

- Inhaled β_2 agonists
- Inhaled cortico-steroids
- Long acting β_2 agonists
- Leukotriene receptor antagonists
- Inhaled cromoglycate

Class 1/2 Certification:

Criteria	Certification
Well-controlled asthma: No adverse history, satisfactory spirometry, fall in FEV ₁ of less than or equal to 10% on Bronchial Reactivity Test, inhaled corticosteroids less than 800 μ g day	Unrestricted Class 1 Unrestricted Class 2
Moderately controlled asthma: No adverse history, satisfactory spirometry, fall in FEV ₁ of 11-16% on Bronchial Reactivity Test, or inhaled corticosteroids equal to or greater than 800 μ g day	Class 1 OML Unrestricted Class 2
Sub-optimally controlled asthma: No adverse history, satisfactory spirometry, fall in FEV ₁ of 16-20% on Bronchial Reactivity Test	Class 2 OSL
Uncontrolled asthma: Fall in FEV ₁ of greater than 20% on Bronchial Reactivity Test AND/OR adverse history	Unfit all Classes