

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Dear AME

Preparations are now firmly in hand for the transition to EASA Medical Certification next July. We now have the final text of the implementing rules (IRs) and the Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMCs) material for Part-med is expected before Christmas. We have enough information to explain the new system and introduce the new procedures to you during a series of one-day seminars that we have set up between March and June 2012. You have to attend one of these seminars in order to be approved to issue EASA medical certificates under the oversight of the UK CAA. Please do therefore plan ahead and book your seminar early. **The dates and locations of seminars are shown below.**

The CAA has published its proposed Schemes of Charges for the Financial Year 2012/13. The one that is relevant for AMEs and Aeromedical Centres is the Personnel Licensing Scheme. You can access this from the CAA web site via the following link: <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?gid=1351>. It contains several proposals that will affect AMEs, including an annual approval fee. Details are given as to how you can comment on this and to whom you can submit them. The scheme will be published in January, with effect from 1 April 2012.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your efforts to ensure that applicants receive conscientious and skilled aeromedical assessments. We are all working to assure aviation safety and it is heartening to know that the CAA can rely on a set of highly professional aeromedical examiners to achieve that aim.

I wish you a very merry festive season and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sally

AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT

AME Annual Return

We have been waiting for delivery of an automated system for collating annual returns and recording audits. This system is also designed to provide you with CPD letters. Unfortunately this has been subject to a number of delays and therefore we have had to generate them manually. We apologise for any inconvenience. Please note, next year, Annual Returns will have to be submitted electronically.

We are currently undertaking a review of all AMEs who have not submitted annual CPD returns, have performed <10 medicals/yr and/or who are not yet working fully online. AMEs who are not fully compliant will receive letters regarding reapproval.

AME Seminars 2012

Training Date	Venue
09 March 2012	Edinburgh Pre-SAAME
27 March 2012	Britannia Hotel Newcastle
03 April 2012	Ramada Bristol
19 April 2012	Marriott Manchester
03 May 2012	Crowne Plaza Birmingham
01 June 2012	Aviation House Gatwick
08 June 2012	Aviation House Gatwick

Please do not book any travel arrangements until you have returned the completed application form to us and we have confirmed your place at a particular seminar.

AEROMEDICAL STANDARDS

Latest flow charts

For simplicity we are now referring to algorithms as flow charts. Please remember to make sure you are referring to up-to-date flow charts when advising pilots/ATCOs. Whilst we notify you by email of updates, these messages can sometimes get lost so point your link to the Documents for Download page.

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7099>)

Technically inadequate ECGs

We appear to be seeing an increase in the number of technically inadequate ECGs being submitted. Sometimes it is an obvious error such as a chest lead not being connected or severe extraneous noise. This creates extra work as we have to send a letter, and set a brought forward to chase. Please double check the ECG before coding it and sending it in.

Anyone submitting ECGs as strips, you must ensure that that are mounted on A4 paper/card with the name/caa reference number and DOB.

ECG Result Code 73 for JAA Class 2 Medicals.

When informing us of the result of an ECG (via the AOL Message Board) which was initially entered with the result type 73, please could you ensure that you let us know which result type to use, in order for us to fully update MARS.

70 - Normal / Acceptable JAA Class 2
71 - Abnormal / Acceptable JAA Class 2
72 - Abnormal / Unacceptable JAA Class 2
73 - Borderline pending review

In the AME Area on the Medical Website, Notification No 0081 (which superseded notification No 0079) was sent to all AMEs on 16 March 2011 with the new JAA class 2 ECG codes to be used when loading results online.

A link to the Med-Notification page is below http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/1859/SG_Med-Notification_Index.pdf

The new system is working quite well, BUT we are still getting examples of situations where the procedure is not being followed. Please note that these are logged as AME procedural errors.

Please take a moment to refresh yourselves with the procedure. Or why not attach it to your machine with the list of acceptable statements?

Limitations

Under EASA, only one certificate will be allowed to validate all EASA flying licences. As a result of this (and a number of other issues) we are now removing medical limitations from licences when issued/re-issued. Therefore you should no longer see SSL/RLL. If you do, please contact a caseworker who can advise whether the limitation can be updated and how.

Non-UK Aeromedical Assessments

Just a reminder that the procedure for completing non-UK medicals, online and in paper format, can be found under item 0070 of the Notification Index on the web. The Administration Guidance Document has also been updated appropriately

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=4097> – see item 1)

Cessation of Long-Term Unfit assessments

Following discussions we have decided to cease this process as it does not appear to serve us in terms of managing unfitness and collection of statistics.

Our “long-term unfit”(LTU) process was designed for keeping statistics of those ‘losing their licences’ due to ill health, but any reliance we may have historically placed on these statistics is severely skewed by non-notification or loss to follow-up of TUs. LTU assessments have, however, been used by other organisations (eg, airlines & insurers) for their own purposes and it is not for us to make or influence any employment or benefit decisions made by them.

Therefore you should **now** refrain from using the term 'Long-term Unfit'. Any applicants who are deferred and are found not fit will be issued with a denial.

The opinions we express should principally concern the case fitness assessment as at today ie, whether **fit, unfit or referred** as these are the terms used by EASA.

Any prognostic certificatory statements should only be used when you anticipate a date at which certification could be reconsidered. For example, (for serious head injuries) *"as you can see from the enclosed flow chart/table/regulation we are unable to consider reviewing your case before a period of x years has elapsed"*.

AME ONLINE

Timely Entry of Medicals on AME Online/Submission of Medical Forms

Once you have performed a medical the entries and paperwork submission (if needed) need to be completed as soon as possible. We are monitoring this closely as it often delays the issue of licences or ratings to applicants. If this is an IT issue then contact us, if it is not, then AME procedural errors will be generated and may be a cause for practice audit.

Follow-up reports

We have frequent instances of AMEs issuing a certificate via AME Online without checking their previous correspondence from us regarding follow up reports. A reminder from the AME to the pilot at the time of the medical exam would prevent us having to generate "Information Not Received" letters.

Ophthalmology forms

Please also note that, if you have input an extended ophthalmology test on MARS at the time of the medical, the hardcopy of the ophthalmology form does not have to be sent to us.

Daybooks

Please note, we continue to use this part of the system for AME oversight purposes.

Pre-printing or hand-writing certificates

Some AMEs are not using the online certificate printing process. AMEs should only use the medical certificate template at times of system failure. We have a number of certificates that have been incorrectly issued by this method which, for example, have given expiry dates for single pilot public transport operations beyond the holder's 60th birthday. If AMEs still have printing problems, they should contact us.

WEB

Since the last newsletter (December 2010) the following pages have been added/updated on our website:

February 2011

Sarcoid algorithm

The latest Sarcoidosis algorithm is now available on the web:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=3379>

AME Support email address

A new email address for AME use (ordering stationery, queries on approval etc) has been created: amesupport@caa.co.uk Please feel free to use this address for anything NOT pilot (use medicalweb@caa.co.uk) or AME Online (use ameonline@caa.co.uk) related.

March 2011

Medical Trials

A new FAQ has been added to the Medication and ATCO groups:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=70&gid=208&faqid=1221>

April 2011

Scheme of Charges

The Medical Department's clinical charges were updated and can be found at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=3224>

UK AME Approval Policy:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=10370>

Visual Pages

Substandard vision in one eye:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=4549>

MFT for substandard vision

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=10475>

Documents for Download

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7099>

NPPL Page Updates

The pages listed below were updated on the web.

Of significance is the removal of all NPPL algorithms, form SRG1203 (formerly for commercial balloonists/airship operators) and individual guidance information for GPs and pilots. The NPPL information is now reduced to one web page and the declaration form (SRG1204) - which includes the GP and pilot notes, along with a new algorithm.

If you have any queries regarding the text, please contact Sally or Stuart.

NPPL Home page:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=12133>

Balloon and Airship Licences:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=2739>

Documents for Download:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7099>

CAMFor Minutes

Please be advised that the above minutes are now available in What's New on the web at: <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=87>

July 2011

Brugada algorithm:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=11319>

Pacemaker algorithm:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=1228>

August 2011

Obstructive Sleep apnoea algorithm:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7554>

September 2011

Scheme of Charges

As per the below, the consultation on the New Scheme of Charges for 2012/13 has been published on the website, and closes on 21st December. These charges will come into effect on 01 April 2012:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1350&pagetype=90&pageid=8114>

Notification Index last updated:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860>

EASA Communication update:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=12120>

October 2011

AAME conference details:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=9550>

JAR Guidance Document:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=3462>

Guidance on Using Contact Lenses by Pilots

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=9243>

Guidance on Use of Contact Lenses by ATCOs
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=12575>

Guidance for Pilots/ATCOs Requiring Glasses for Reading
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=9245>

November 2011

Admin Guidance Document

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=4097>

Part-Med published

The first four annexes of the Aircrew Regulation (containing Part-FCL, Part-MED, conditions for the conversion of national licences and conditions for the acceptance of third country licences) were published on Friday 25 November in the Official Journal.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:311:FULL:EN:PDF>

December 2011

Winter Break

Details for Medical Department opening times over the Christmas/New Year period have been published to the web:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=87>

Remember if you sign up for  feeds you can keep up-to-date with all the important changes to our site, by receiving this information as it is published. You can find out more about this at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=14&pagetype=65&appid=33>

OTHER NEWS

Staff News for 2011

- Dr Stuart Mitchell took over AME Oversight from Jan 2011;
- Dr Miruna Canagaratnam joined us as Trainee in Aviation Medicine working in both AMS and AeMC. She is currently on maternity leave which is being covered by

Mr John Pitts (AME and Consultant Ophthalmologist);

- Dr Rob Hunter has left to join BALPA and Dr Nigel Dowdall has taken over as Head AHU;
- Dr Frank Voeten has joined us part-time in the Aeromedical Section;
- Dr Andy Tobias has left his P/T role in the AeMC and been replaced by David Holwell;
- Gerry Emms retired and has been replaced by Michelle Anders;
- Chris Davis retired (July 2011) and has been replaced by Maxine Briggs;
- Liz Cove has moved to Personnel Licensing and has been replaced by Daisy Watson.
- Sue Webster is due to retire at the end of December 2011 and will be replaced by Tom Caton.

LINKS

Scheme of Charges:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?gid=1351>

Documents for Download:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7099>

Notification Index:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860>

Administration Guidance Document:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=4097>

FINALLY

If there is anything that you would like to see featured in the newsletter then please let us know so that we can endeavour to include it in future issues.