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**UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL BALLOON PILOT LICENCES
CPL (BALLOON) (RESTRICTED PRIVILEGES) AND PPL (BALLOON AND AIRSHIP)
MEDICAL DECLARATION****NOTES FOR THE PILOT**

- 1) This medical declaration is for balloon pilots who have, or wish to proceed, via a PPL (BA), to a Commercial Balloon Pilot Licence (CPL (B)) with restricted privileges (commercial flying but not for the purposes of public transport). You will need a JAR Class 2 medical certificate if you wish to exercise the unrestricted privileges of your CPL (B), and also if there is any difficulty with the countersignature of this Declaration (you have no GP, or your GP does not wish to sign it).
- 2) The medical declaration must be signed by you and countersigned by your GP before your first solo flight, and then at renewal intervals as noted. The minimum age for signing is one month prior to your 16th birthday (the minimum age for solo balloon flying). The minimum age for issue of a PPL (BA) is 17 and for a CPL (B), 18 years. You must make sure that you provide copies of the relevant documents for your GP - these include the Notes for the General Practitioner (the page after these notes), and any medical information sheets (see below). An explanation of the application of the driving medical standards to the National PPL may also be of help to your GP. This can be found at www.caa.co.uk/medical.
- 3) If you have any of the medical conditions listed in paragraph 4, you must provide your GP with a copy of the relevant medical information sheet. These information sheets are available from the British Balloon and Airship Club (BBAC) or from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) web site (www.caa.co.uk/medical). Your GP will not be able to countersign your declaration until he/she has seen this information, and even then may need to refer to the BBAC Medical Adviser for further advice. For a CPL (B) the DVLA Group 2 standards in the information sheets will need to be met.
- 4) Medical disorders for which information sheets are available include: nervous system, heart, diabetes, psychiatric, vision, chest and breathing, epilepsy, drug/alcohol misuse and physical disability. There are two visual conditions where the standards for balloon flying are less than for professional driving. These are monocularly and marked shortsight. The vision information sheet explains the requirements, which include being restricted to the DVLA Group 1 standard as a student pilot. The appropriate Medical Declaration form in this situation can be found at www.caa.co.uk/medical.
- 5) Whenever you intend to go flying it remains your personal responsibility as a pilot to be fit. Illness or injury, drug treatment, fatigue, pregnancy, medical procedures or surgical operations will usually cause temporary unfitness. If you are in doubt about your fitness you should stop flying, and seek advice from your GP (who will assess you to the professional driving standards) or a BBAC Medical Advisor.
- 6) After any serious illness or injury you must discuss your fitness with a doctor. This may be your treating doctor, your GP or a BBAC Medical Advisor. If any doctor advises that you are unfit (for driving or flying), you must not fly until that assessment has been changed. The relevant information sheet (see paragraph 3) may help your doctor in this assessment. Again, a BBAC Medical Advisor can give specific advice about flying to your treating doctor or GP.
- 7) If you wear spectacles or contact lenses, a readily available spare pair of spectacles must be carried when flying.
- 8) Your licence is not valid without an in date copy of this medical declaration.

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MEDICAL DECLARATION**

NOTES FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

- 1) The medical requirements to validate a UK Commercial Balloon Pilot's Licence, which allows commercial flying but not the carriage of paying passengers, are based on the DVLA professional driving standards. The latest version of these can be found on the DVLA website page at www.dvla.gov.uk/at_a_glance/content.htm. The applicant signs a declaration of fitness, which is then countersigned by you. Your counter-signature confirms the absence of a medical history that would preclude holding a DVLA Group 2 Driving Licence (with occasional modifications - see below). The UK Civil Aviation Authority, which is responsible for these medical standards, regards your knowledge of the applicant's medical history to be the most important part of this assessment. Additional explanatory information is available and a copy will be provided for you by the applicant if you wish it.
- 2) Two exceptions (where Group 2 professional driving is precluded but commercial balloon flying is not) are monocular applicants and those with a high uncorrected visual acuity (please see separate vision information sheet, which the applicant will provide).
- 3) Information sheets are provided for applicants who have a specific medical history. These cover both DVLA Group 1 (private driving) and Group 2 (professional driving) and commercial balloon applicants will need to reach the latter standard. The following disorders are covered: cardiovascular (two - coronary artery disease and other heart disease), diabetes, drug/alcohol misuse, epilepsy, neurological, physical disability, psychiatric, respiratory and vision. If the applicant has a condition which falls under any of these headings and you have not seen the associated information sheet, you should defer the assessment until it is available.
- 4) If you have any doubts about an applicant's fitness, if the information sheets do not cover a particular condition, or if the DVLA "At a Glance" notes state that, for a particular condition, DVLA notification is necessary, the British Balloon and Airship Club (BBAC) Medical Adviser (not the DVLA) should be approached for specialist advice about flying. The applicant will provide contact details for the Adviser, and will also be responsible for forwarding any relevant reports or investigations if necessary. After discussing the case with the Adviser, it is hoped you will feel able to countersign the applicant's Declaration.
- 5) The minimum age for countersigning the Declaration is one month before the applicant's 16th birthday to allow solo flying on that birthday if required. After initial issue the validity periods of this medical declaration are as follows:

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| Up to, and including, age 44 | Until 45th birthday or 5 years (whichever is longer) |
| 45 - 59 | 5 years |
| 60 - 64 | Until 65th birthday or 1 year (whichever is longer) |
| 65 and over | 1 year |
- 6) Additional medical reviews may be required after serious illness, in the light of adverse clinical investigations, in circumstances when it is advised by the DVLA for professional road drivers or on the advice of a BBAC Medical Adviser.

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