

Flying Display Season 2026

As Display Season 2026 draws to a close, we reflect on another successful and impactful year for UK flying displays. While the season has delivered many highlights, it has not been without incident, reminding us all of the importance of continuous learning and vigilance.

The winter period provides an invaluable opportunity for the display community to pause, reflect and reset, identifying lessons that can help make DS27 the safest and most successful season yet.

One of the most important forums for sharing best practice, discussing emerging trends and ensuring that lessons are openly exchanged and genuinely learned is the Pre-Display Season Symposium, details of which can be found below. We encourage as many members of the display community to attend as possible and look forward to continuing our shared commitment to safety, professionalism and excellence in UK flying displays.

Observations from DS26

SRG1327

Whilst use of the 'SRG1327 Pilot's Certified Declaration' is not mandated, CAP 403 requires that much of the information contained within the SRG1327 **must** be provided by the display pilot to the FDD in advance of the display, including the details of hazardous materials, lateral separation, pilot documentation and insurance details. The provision of this information, along with details of display manoeuvres and minima, ensures the FDD has all information necessary to plan safely, maintain situational awareness, and respond swiftly and correctly to any incident involving a display item under their control.

Whether submitted using an SRG1327 or an alternative format requested by the FDD, we urge all display pilots to help the FDDs prepare for success by providing all requested information accurately and in a timely manner.

DAE Support

DAEs play a vital role in flying display safety, not only through assessment of DA candidates during workups and evaluations, but also through the provision of support and mentoring to DA holders throughout the display season.

One way in which this is achieved is through open and ongoing communication between the DA and DAE throughout the display season, enabling feedback and any safety warning calls to be discussed and addressed. This in turn supports pilot development and ultimately contributes to the continuous improvement of display safety.

Application Timelines

47% of all flying display and special event applications received by the CAA in DS26 were submitted less than 42 days ahead of the event date and15% were submitted within 14 days of the event. As defined in CAP 403, the CAA requires at least 42 days to process applications and to ensure the necessary permission or exemption can be issued in a timely manner. Whilst we endeavour to process applications submitted inside the 42-day timeline, this cannot be guaranteed and, in some cases, will result in disappointment.

Flying Display and Special Event Applications*

Applications	DS22	DS23	DS24	DS25	DS26
Processed	226	252	230	214	215
Issued	215	242	218	209	205

* Data accurate on 12 November 2026

Safety and Warning Calls

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Stop	0	3	2	0	0
Terminate	9	14	4	14	8
Too Low	11	18	24	24	17
Too Close	25	20	43	47	70

* Data accurate on 12 November 2026

Safety Survey

Our 2026 Post Flying Display Season Safety Survey is live!

We invite you to complete this short survey about your experience of DS26. The survey is designed to gather information from the air display community to aid in our identification of trends and lessons in the interest of continuous improvement and the enhancement of safety.

The survey can be found here: CAA Post Flying Display Season Safety Survey 2026, or accessed via the QR code. The survey closes on Friday 18 December 2026.

Future Dates

Pre-Display Season Symposium 2027

The DS27 Pre-Display Season Symposium will be held at IWM Duxford on 23-24 March 2027. Owing to the change of location for the 2027 event, there will be a charge of £35 per attendee. Online applications will be open from 01 December 2026 until 11 March 2027.

FDD Accreditation Courses

FDD Initial	FDD Revalidation	AFDD
01-02 December 2027	30 November 2027	01 December 2027

Applications should be made via this link: UK CAA / MAA Flying Display Director Accreditation Course. Non-UK nationals must **also** apply and submit payment via the CAA International website at: Flying Display Director Initial Accreditation Course.

The cut-off date for all applications is 15 October 2027.

Please note that **all 2027 accreditation courses will be held in-person at CAA Aviation House, Gatwick.**

Visit the CAA Flying Displays and Special Events page for further information.

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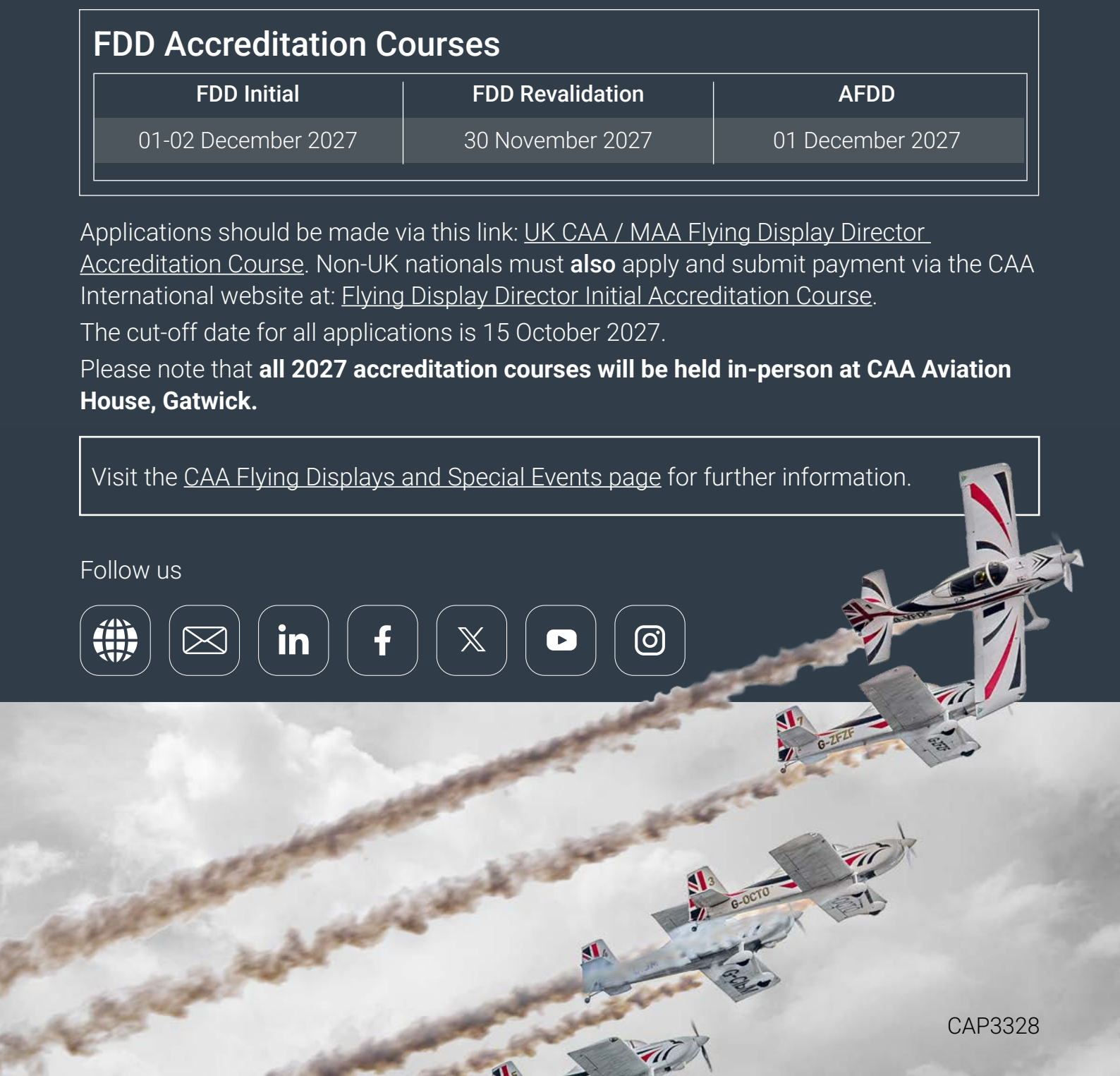

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