

CIMP

United Kingdom National report.

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During the year 2011 there were eleven fatal accidents in United Kingdom general aviation. Of aeromedical concern one with two fatalities followed a rapid descent by a hot air balloon from high altitude when hypoxia was a possible contribution. Another fatality occurred when a micro-light pilot collided with trees on the approach to his home runway, his National medical certificate was found to have expired and may not have been renewed because of potentially disqualifying disease.

With the future enforcement of EASA regulations there is considerable concern in the pilot population concerning accessibility and costs. General practitioners will not be permitted to issue limited certificates and this may lead to unrestricted certificates being issued when it might have been wiser to limit the pilot. However details are not yet known because although guidance was supposed to have been issued by the Civil Aviation Authority by April 2012, it was first postponed to July and has been further postponed until September.

For several reasons there has been a reduction in the number of AMEs. Under national rules retired doctors can no longer practice in a limited capacity and the costs and complexity of remaining an AME are increasing, thereby discouraging those with a genuine participation in aviation who undertook pilot medical examinations as an extension to their hobby but as a small side line to their main professional activities.

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