

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGIQUE (CIMP)

National Report - United Kingdom

By Dr Peter Saundby

During the last year there have been no accidents to recreational aircraft from medical causes. There was a recent incident in which a glider pilot was flying under instruction in a two seat glider and had landed the aircraft as handling pilot. Whilst climbing out of the aircraft he collapsed and died from a cardiac arrest. He was aged 69 and held a restricted (private driver equivalent) UK NPPL medical certificate. However this does not imply an adverse medical history because many pilots do not chose to have the higher standard if they do not intend to carry passengers.

A recent analysis of fatal accidents to UK registered over the last thirty years has been published. This does not include gliders because in the UK these have not been registered until recently. A copy is attached but it can be noted that the percentage of accidents arising from a medical cause is identical between Group 'A' aircraft and micro-light aircraft, despite very different systems of medical certification. Although not included, the figures for gliding are similar.

17 August 2011