



This brochure offers guidelines to help pilots determine whether they are legal and fit to fly as a sport pilot. Some people who hold a driver's license should not fly for medical reasons.

### **I want to earn my sport pilot certificate; what are the medical requirements?**

To operate as a sport pilot, you must have either a valid state drivers license or a valid FAA third-class medical certificate. In addition, Federal Aviation Regulation 61.53 requires every pilot, from sport pilot to airline transport pilot, to conclude before each flight that he or she is medically fit to operate the aircraft in a safe manner. As pilots, it is our responsibility to ensure that our current medical health in no way jeopardizes the safety of a flight. If your most recent medical has been denied, suspended, or revoked, see *What if Your Medical Has Been Denied?*

### **I'm a private pilot. What are the medical requirements if I only exercise the privileges of a sport pilot?**

To operate as a sport pilot, you must have either a valid state drivers license or a valid FAA third-class medical certificate. If your most recent medical has been denied, suspended, or revoked, see *What if Your Medical Has Been Denied?*

### **What is meant by "valid" state driver's license?**

Your state driver's license is valid as long as you comply with the laws of your state. Most states require you to stop driving and notify the state department of motor vehicles if you have a significant change in your health. The more common medical issues that require

suspension of driving privileges are:

- Vision changes
- Loss of consciousness
- Impairment of judgment
- Loss of motor function
- Seizures or blackouts

If you have experienced any one of the above, even temporarily, you need to verify with your state department of motor vehicles that your driver's license is still valid. In addition, you should consult with your family doctor about the advisability of piloting an aircraft.

If your license is suspended or revoked due to traffic violations or alcohol/drug related convictions you cannot use your state drivers license to establish medical fitness and would have to possess a third-class medical certificate.

### **I just started on a new medication and the label says, "May cause drowsiness" and "Use care when operating a car or dangerous machinery." Am I able to fly when taking this medicine?**

You must determine your medical fitness before flying, so consult with the doctor who prescribed the medication to ensure that it will not interfere with your piloting of an aircraft. Once you are established on a medicine, you and your doctor may determine that it has no adverse effects on you and therefore flying can be resumed.

### **Common Sense**

Common sense is the rule that Sport Pilots must follow. The FAA has granted Sport Pilots the opportunity to avoid the cost and inconvenience of obtaining and maintaining a FAA 3rd class medical. If we, as Sport Pilots, use common sense and listen to advice of our family, friends, and per-

sonal physician, we can ensure that medical issues do not compromise pilot and passenger safety and guarantee that this privilege is available for current and future Sport Pilots.

### **What if Your Medical Has Been Denied?**

The sport pilot rule states that if an individual's most recent application for an FAA medical certificate has been denied, suspended, or revoked, that person may not use a driver's license as a medical certificate until the denial is cleared from the record. It is important that people understand the correct status of their FAA medical certificate. This provision affects only those who have received a denial, suspension, or revocation letter from the FAA.

Individuals who have a denial or suspension on record can become eligible to use the driver's license medical by one of two means:

- Pursue a one-time third-class medical certificate. Many conditions causing denial in the past are no longer cause for denial.
- FAA is developing an alternative medical review procedure to streamline re-evaluation of candidates.

EAA will continue to press for more and easier access to aviation for our members. For the latest information, please monitor [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org) and [www.SportPilot.org](http://www.SportPilot.org). Details will continue to unfold over the upcoming weeks and months.

