01/08/2016

To All Instructors and Examiners

THE AIR NAVIGATION ORDER 2016

2016 is a year of change and the Air Navigation Order is no different. The ANO 2016 has been published but has to be presented to Parliament, and signed, before the law can be enacted. So it is more or less a given that from the 25th August the changes below will be in force.

Instructor Revalidation Periods
All Instructor Ratings, FI and AFI, will have a 36 month validity period. AFIs may wish to test before the end of their 36 month period in order to upgrade to FI. The revalidation procedures and requirements do not change, only the validity period. Unfortunately this is not retrospective and will only apply to instructor tests undertaken after the date the ANO 2016 comes in force.

Renamed!
From now on Microlight Instructor Ratings will be issued as ‘Flight Instructor Certificate’ (Microlight) and AFIs will be issued with ‘Flight Instructor Certificate (Restricted)’ (Microlight). This is a name change only, no other changes are implied.

Type Control Restriction
All new Instructor Ratings/ Certificates will be Control Type restricted (Fixed wing/ 3 Axes, Flexwing/ Weightshift or Powered Parachute). To instruct on another Control Type the Instructor will have to pass a test with a FIE (Microlight), this could be the Revalidation Test. Again, this is not retrospective, which means existing Instructors, but not AFIs, continue to be unrestricted. The Panel recommends that Instructors training on multiple Control Types alternate those different Types on their Revalidation Tests.

VFR and Pilot limitations
For the PPL and NPPL the visibility restriction on the Licence holder no longer applies. There is no VFR minima (was 3K) or SVFR minima (was 10K). Pilots will only have to comply with VMC minima.

Medicals
The NPPL self-declaration medical is changing. The new CAA system will be in an online format. There will be no GP counter signature. Another change is that there will be only one group or class and no restrictions for passenger carrying, as far as the medical is concerned. The standard required is to the DVLA private driving licence requirement. If the person making the application cannot meet certain conditions they will be referred. This new system should be up and running by end of August.

As soon as the ANO 2016 is in force, the information in this Instructor Bulletin will supersede that in the relevant sections in the Guide until such time as the Guide is amended to incorporate these changes. You will be notified when the Guide is amended.

Interesting times, hope the flying season is going well for all

Fiona Luckhurst
Chairman Microlight Panel of Examiners