



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Deputy Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

June 15, 2023

Mr. Mark Baker  
President and CEO  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your March 30 letter to former Acting Administrator Billy Nolen regarding potential false statements on applications for Airman Medical Certificates.

Let me first assure you the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans made in the service of our country, and we thank them for their service. The inquiry into this matter began with a referral from the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office (IG). As part of the FAA's mandate to ensure safety, we took steps to follow up on this information.

The IG initially identified approximately 4,800 pilots whose records indicate the pilots might have submitted incorrect or false information as part of their medical applications. I am pleased to report that the FAA has made significant progress in resolving many of these cases.

The agency has so far closed approximately 2,550 cases. Upon the FAA's further review, the identified discrepancies for these pilots were resolved or revealed administrative errors that resulted in their inclusion in the initial group. In addition, some pilots had already reported their conditions.

The FAA's medical staff completed a preliminary review of all of the cases to identify pilots who might have certain disqualifying medical conditions. We identified approximately 60 pilots in this group and notified them that they must cease flying unless and until they obtain a new medical certificate or an Authorization for Special Issuance.

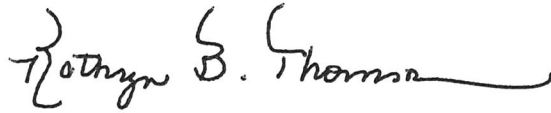
Approximately 1,250 pilots in the initial group no longer hold valid medical certificates. Some of these pilots could be flying under BasicMed, which allows them to fly smaller airplanes (no larger than six seats) on a non-commercial basis. The FAA continues to review these cases.

The majority of the remaining pilots with open cases may continue flying while the FAA works with them to reconcile their paperwork by the date stated in the notification letters.

In recognition of our veterans' service, as well as their shared interest in aviation safety, the Office of Aerospace Medicine and the FAA Chief Counsel's office hope to confine legal enforcement action to only the most egregious cases meeting certain criteria. Additionally, airmen who are not medically qualified may be subject to legal enforcement action due to their lack of qualifications to hold a medical certificate.

Ultimately, the FAA is committed to enhancing clarity in its forms and applications when needed. We invested significant effort in the past to revise the 8500-8 Application for Airman Medical Certificate to be clearer. We will continue to consider future improvements to the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn B. Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Thomson  
Acting Deputy Administrator