

# **COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE (HELICOPTER)**

Requirements for the issue of a Commercial Pilot Licence (Helicopter) (CPL(H)) are published in the Joint Aviation Requirements – Flight Crew Licensing (Helicopter), Part 2 (JAR-FCL 2). The current version in force in Ireland is Amendment 6.

Section 1 of the above document, which contains the detailed licensing requirements, can be viewed on the JAA website [here](#). Alternatively, a copy should be available to view at a Flight Training Organisation (FTO) or can be ordered from the website of Information Handling Services (IHS) at <http://www.global.ihs.com>

This document summarises the frequently asked questions in relation to the requirements for the initial issue of a JAR-FCL CPL(H).

## **Q.1 How old must you be to apply for the issue of a JAR-FCL CPL(H)?**

A. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply for the issue of a JAR-FCL CPL(H).

You can complete the qualifying requirements whilst under the age of 18, but you cannot submit your application for the issue of the licence until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You should note that where qualifying requirements are met before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, you must ensure that they will be valid at the time of application for licence issue. The validity periods of training, examinations and skill tests are detailed elsewhere in this document.

## **Q.2 Do I need to undergo a medical examination?**

A. Yes, you must undergo a medical examination and be issued with a medical certificate.

For a JAR-FCL CPL(H), you must hold at least a JAR-FCL Class 1 medical certificate issued by an Authorised Medical Examiner (AME). The initial Class 1 medical examination must be completed at the IAA Aeromedical Centre (AMC) which is currently located at the Mater Private Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7.

The IAA strongly recommends that you undergo the medical examination before you commit to a course of training for the JAR-FCL CPL(H), and particularly before you commit to any substantial expense.

Further information about medical requirements, including a list of AMEs in Ireland, can be found in the [Aeromedical](#) section of the IAA website.

## **Q.3 Where can I train for a JAR-FCL CPL(H)?**

A. In order to obtain a JAR-FCL CPL(H) issued by the IAA, you must complete the training course with a Flight Training Organisation approved by the IAA. A list of such FTOs can be found in the [Flight training](#) section of the IAA website.

## **Q.4 What does the training course consist of?**

A. There are two different types of course that you can follow to qualify for a JAR-FCL CPL(H); Integrated or Modular.

The Integrated course is a full time course of ground and flying training provided by an approved FTO, typically lasting between 18 & 24 months. The aim of the course is to train pilots to the level of proficiency necessary to enable them to operate as co-pilot on multi-pilot, multi-engine helicopters in commercial air transportation, and to obtain a JAR-FCL CPL(H)/IR.

The Modular course is a course of ground and flying training completed in modules over a period of time with an approved FTO. The aim of the Modular course is to train PPL(H) holders to the level of proficiency necessary for the issue of a CPL(H). Further modular training courses (e.g. IR, MCC etc) can be completed over time to add to the basic JAR-FCL CPL(H) qualification, to enable the licence holder to operate as co-pilot on multi-pilot, multi-engine helicopters in commercial air transportation, if desired.

Only the Modular course is available through IAA approved FTOs.

Full details of both courses can be found in Sub-part D of JAR-FCL 2 which can be viewed on the JAA website [here](#).

**Q.5 Do I have to sit any examinations?**

- A. Yes, there are two levels of examination that can be taken for the issue of a JAR-FCL CPL(H); depending on the type of training course undertaken. The CPL(H) examinations comprise nine examinations and the ATPL(H) examinations comprise 14 examinations. If you are training for a CPL(H) with a view to operating as co-pilot on multi-pilot, multi-engine helicopters in commercial air transportation, then you must pass the ATPL(H) examinations

Credits from some of the examinations may be available if you hold a pilot licence for certain categories of aircraft (e.g. aeroplane) – further details can be obtained from the IAA [Personnel Licensing Office](#).

All examination papers are multiple choice and the pass mark is 75%. They are conducted by the IAA at an examination centre in Dublin to a published [timetable](#).

You have to pass all examinations within a period of 18 months, counted from the end of the calendar month when you first attempt an examination, and you then have a further 24 months in which to complete the remaining requirements and apply for the issue of the JAR-FCL CPL(H) and IR(H), if an IR(H) is required.

**Q.6 Do I have to pass a flight test?**

- A. Yes, you must pass a JAR-FCL CPL(H) skill test with a Flight Examiner (FE) authorised by the IAA. The skill test will include procedures and manoeuvres to demonstrate your ability to fly a helicopter as pilot-in-command, all of which you will have been taught during the training course.

Before you can attempt a skill test, you must be recommended for the skill test by the Head of Training of the FTO. You must also have passed the required theoretical knowledge examinations described in Q.5 above, and be in possession of a valid JAR-FCL Class 1 medical certificate (see Q.2) at the time of the test.

**Q.7 Are there any other tests that I have to pass?**

- A. Yes, you must also demonstrate English Language Proficiency (ELP). This assessment will be conducted by the Flight Examiner at the time of your skill test. You must obtain a minimum Level 4 (Operational) to qualify for a JAR-FCL CPL(H), with Level 6 (Expert) being the highest level attainable. If Level 6 is achieved, no further ELP assessment is required – an ELP level below Level 6 will require period re-assessment (every 3 or 6 years) depending on the Level achieved. Further details can be obtained from the IAA [Personnel Licensing Office](#).

**Q.8 I hold a CPL(H) issued by an ICAO Contracting State, in accordance with Annex 1. What do I have to do to convert it to a JAR-FCL CPL(H)?**

- A. If you hold an ICAO CPL(H) issued by a non-JAA Member State in accordance with ICAO Annex 1, you must meet all of the requirements of JAR-FCL, except that the requirements of course duration, number of lessons and specific training hours may be reduced. The IAA may be guided as to the credits to be granted on the basis of a recommendation from the Head of Training of an IAA approved FTO. You must meet the theoretical knowledge and skill test requirements in full. A valid [JAR-FCL Class 1 medical certificate](#) must also be held.

**Q.9 How long is the licence valid for, and how do I keep it valid?**

- A. A JAR-FCL CPL(H) is issued with a validity period of 5 years. It can be re-issued for further five year periods, subject to you holding a valid [JAR-FCL Class 1 medical certificate](#) and a valid helicopter type rating.