

Information leaflet for **VALID NATIONAL BALLOON PILOT LICENSE** holders. Conversion requirements to obtain a **PART-FCL Light Aircraft Pilot License LAPL(B)**, or a **Balloon Pilot licence (BPL)**.

Validity of document:

Starting 08/04/2013

#### 1.Privileges

LAPL (B): The privileges of the holder of an LAPL for balloons are to act as PIC of hot-air balloons or hot-air airships, with a maximum of 3.400 m<sup>3</sup> envelope capacity, or gas balloons with a maximum of 1.200 m<sup>3</sup> envelope capacity, carrying a maximum of 3 passengers, to the extent that there are never more than 4 persons on board of the aircraft.

BPL: The privileges of the holder of a BPL are to act as PIC on balloons and hot-air airships. Holders of a BPL shall be restricted to act without remuneration in non-commercial operations unless they satisfy FCL. 205.B (b).

The privileges of a LAPL(B) license are more restrictive compared to a Belgian national balloon pilot licence. The privileges of a BPL are comparable to those of a Belgian national balloon pilot licence.

#### 2.Extra training required for the conversion of the license and ratings:

Additional theoretical training: None required

Additional practical training: A training flight in accordance with FCL 230B-a)2), see remarks in box 8.

#### 3.Skill-test:

Additional skill test: None required for the conversion of the Belgian national balloon pilot license to a PART-FCL conformal license and ratings.

#### 4.Medical fitness:

The candidate must pass a PART-MED (medical requirements for various PART-FCL licences) medical assessment, in accordance with the licence that will be requested (LAPL, or BPL). However several options are possible for the transition period:

1. The candidate is already holder of a medical certificate, prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013:

The medical certificate class 4 is a national medical certificate. This certificate will stay valid until the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 or the date of the next revalidation of the certificate ( whichever is earlier). This means that when the candidate wants a revalidation he will have to convert his medical certificate into a Part-MED certificate. This also means that he will have to go to a certified AeroMedical Examiner (AME) or a certified AeroMedical Centre( AMC).

The medical certificates class 1 and 2 are JAR-compliant medical certificate. These certificates will stay valid until the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 or the date of the next revalidation of the certificate ( whichever is earlier). This means that when the candidate wants a revalidation he will have to convert his medical certificate into a Part-MED certificate. These examinations have already been done with a certified examiner and therefore the candidate shouldn't change of medical examiner.

2. If the candidate is not a holder of a medical certificate prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013: The candidate will have to take a PART-MED compliant medical assessment with an approved medical examiner (AME) or at an approved AeroMedical Centre (AMC).

A valid medical certificate is required when applying for a PART-FCL pilot licence. The medical certificate can be a national or a JAR-compliant medical certificate if the last revalidation was performed before the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013.

#### 5. Forms to fill in:

BCAA Form **Conversion of national licence** (Application for Part-FCL pilot licence – Conversion of an existing national licence issued by Belgium). This form can be found on our website [www.mobilit.belgium.be](http://www.mobilit.belgium.be).

Supporting documentation required with the application: original pilot logbook (covering at least the last 24 months period), valid Belgian national balloon pilot licence, a copy of the valid PART-MED compliant medical certificate (Class 1 or 2 for BPL, Class LAPL for LAPL(B)) or a copy of the national, or JAR-FCL 3 compliant medical certificate, a copy of the R/T licence (radio) and proof of payment.

#### 6. Fees:

The standard fee for the issue of a licence is charged.

#### 7. Dates:

Start: 08/04/2013

End: 31/12/2015

All Belgian national balloon pilot licenses must be converted into PART-FCL compliant licenses by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015, at the latest. Conversions will be made at request of the license holder, **but the application must be filed with the Belgian CAA, before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015!** After the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015, conversion will no longer be possible.

#### 8. Some final tips and tricks, remarks, observations...

Validity of the PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license. One of the differences a license holder will notice, is that the PART-FCL license no longer has an expiry date. A PART-FCL balloon pilot license is valid for life, but its validity will be effectively limited by the medical license and the recency requirements.

Application for the PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license. As the balloon pilot licence is a national licence, **it is the responsibility of the pilot to start the application procedure** for the conversion of the license to a PART-FCL compliant license at the Belgian CAA.

Application for the PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license. License holders may apply for a conversion from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 **until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015** at the latest, at the Belgian CAA. This will allow sufficient margin to process all demands by the deadline at which all Belgian national balloon licenses must be converted in PART-FCL compliant licenses.

Validity of the Belgian national balloon license. A Belgian national balloon licence will remain valid (at the latest) until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015. However, before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, all licenses have to be converted into PART-FCL licenses! You may no longer fly with a national balloon license after that date.

Which type of license should be chosen: LAPL(B) or BPL? With a LAPL (B) the license holder is limited to a certain envelope capacity. (see chapter 1 of this document: privileges). He/she may carry up to 3 passengers on board, but may not be remunerated for the flying, or participate in any commercial operations. He/she will not be able to fly outside the European Union, as the LAPL licence doesn't meet all international ICAO Standards. With a BPL the license holder will have no limitations regarding the envelope capacity, or the amount of passengers on board. The license holder will be allowed to be remunerated for the flying and to participate in commercial operations. Remuneration is also permitted in the role of instructor or examiner.

Privileges. All privileges require experience. Privileges aren't endorsed on the PART-FCL compliant balloon license without demonstration by the applicant of these privileges, using the pilot's logbook, or other documents.

PART-MED compliant medical assessment. In order to obtain a PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license, a candidate will need a PART-MED compliant medical certificate. There are two possible medical certificates that will allow a candidate to be active as a balloon pilot: **Class 2 (minimum) for BPL or Class LAPL for a LAPL(B)**. To obtain a PART-MED compliant medical certificate, a candidate will need to pass a medical assessment with an AME (AeroMedical Examiner), or an AMC (AeroMedical Center) recognized by BCAA. (A list of AME/AMC can be found on the BCAA website: [www.mobilit.belgium.be](http://www.mobilit.belgium.be)).

Medical file. The PART-MED AME, or AMC will require a copy of the medical file that was previously held by the doctor that assessed the medical fitness to fly a balloon. If the candidate doesn't take his file with him, the medical examination will be considered as an initial examination.

Commercial operations and remuneration. If a Belgian national balloon license holder holds commercial privileges (endorsed on the Belgian national balloon pilot license), he/she may request a transfer of those privileges to a PART-FCL balloon pilot license.

Balloon instructor privileges. If a candidate is the holder of valid balloon instructor privileges, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, he/she may apply for a transfer of these instructor privileges to a PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license. The mention FI(B) will be endorsed on the PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license. The instructor privileges will be extended with the privilege of instructing other instructors (other FI), if the license holder has provided 50 hours of instruction on balloons.

Mention of the capacity envelope on the license. In PART-FCL a distinction is made between various "classes" of balloons as well as "groups". The different "classes" that exist, refer to the medium that is used to generate lift. The different "groups" that exist, refer to the capacity of envelope that is used. The PART-FCL balloon pilot licence will be limited to the classe(s) and group(s) as written in FCL.230.B (a)(1) and (2). It will be further limited according FCL.225.B (b)(2) for balloons with a capacity envelope over 6.000 m<sup>3</sup>. The logbook of a candidate for a PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license must contain a mention of the capacity of the balloon(s) that have been flown over the last 24 months. **It is based on those flights that the Belgian CAA will grant the privileges**. It is the responsibility of the candidate to demonstrate the required recent experience in order to be granted requested privileges. The logbook will be very important for the conversion of balloon pilot licenses and privileges, therefore the Belgian CAA kindly requests all Belgian national balloon pilot license holders to add the capacity of the envelope of each flight of the last 24 months (or beyond, if necessary to demonstrate experience).

Revalidation and renewal.

There is no revalidation or renewal of the licence as the licence has no validity date. However the pilot is responsible for the validity of his licence regarding the recency requirements.

Once a license holder has obtained a PART-FCL compliant balloon pilot license, he/she will have to meet the requirements of stipulated in EC 1178/2011 for balloon pilot license holders:

- For LAPL(B) and BPL, **the license holder must check the amount of flight performed in the prior 24 months** (we refer to FCL.140.B (a) for LAPL(B) and FCL.230.B for BPL). If the license holder hasn't performed the minimum required amount of flights, he/she will have to take a proficiency check with an examiner, or meet the remaining experience requirements, by flying together with an instructor.
- Commercial flights or flights with passengers may only be performed, if during a period of the previous 180 days, the balloon pilot license holder has met the experience requirements stipulated in FCL.060 (a).

References: EC 1178/2011, Royal Decree of License Conversions and the Royal Decree of License Fees

