

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN HARMONIZED EXEMPTION CONCEPT OF SINGLE COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER PILOTS AGED 60-65 YEARS

*CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNANT UN CONCEPT HARMONISE EUROPEEN D'EXCEPTION POUR LES PILOTES D'HELICOPTERE ASSURANT DES TRANSPORTS AERIENS COMMERCIAUX EN SOLO A L'AGE DE 60-65 ANS*

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**Introduction:** Single pilot commercial air transport operations by pilots aged 60-65 years are prohibited by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) in line with ICAO. Several EASA Member States have already been granted exemptions under Article 14.4 of Regulation (EC) No 216/ 2008 for such pilots. These exemptions raised discussions about the different national concepts which build the basis of the exemption. This issue has been discussed in an international, interdisciplinary workshop in March 2017. One conclusion was the demand for a harmonized solution in Europe (in coordination with ICAO) and turning away from different national exemptions.

**Methods:** We analyzed the medical parts of the different national concepts ("mitigation measures") which led to a derogation of the age limit by EASA and compared them with the Swiss concept.

**Results:** Seven EASA Member States (including Switzerland) have been granted an exemption by EASA. All concepts include operational and medical mitigation measures. There is a huge variety of the medical concepts, some with numerous medical requirements, partly lacking scientific basis and causing high costs. The Swiss concept is practical and cost efficient concentrating on the cardiovascular field, in which an increased risk in this age group is proven.

**Conclusions:** 1) A harmonized solution for exemption of the age 60-rule must be based on scientific level and include considerations about its decision criteria, its practicability and its cost efficiency. 2) The Swiss model with its focus on the cardiovascular field would fulfill these criteria.