



What Type of Medical Do I Need?

It is important to understand the different types of medicals:

Medical Certificate:	First Class	Second Class	Third Class
Pilot/ License Type	Airline Transport	Commercial	Student Recreational Private
Duration of Validity	6 months if age 40 or older, 12 months if under age 40	12 months	2 years if age 40 or older, 5 years if less than 40 at exam
EKG Electrocardiogram	At age 35, and yearly after that	N/A Unless AME performs one	N/A

A first class medical is required for pilots who exercise airline transport pilot (ATP) privileges; that is, those flying scheduled airliners and other pilots whose employers require this level of certification. A first class medical is valid for ATP privileges for twelve months for pilots under age 40. Pilots who are age 40 and older must renew First class medical certificates every six months. Pilots who are under 40, and the first class privileges expire after twelve months, the first class medical lapses to a third class medical.

A Second class is required for pilots who fly commercially—in operations such as crop dusting, delivering canceled checks, or carrying passengers or cargo for hire. The Second class medical is valid for commercial privileges for 12 months.

A Third class medical certificate is appropriate for student pilots, recreational pilots, and private pilots who fly for pleasure or personal business (but not for hire). A third class medical is valid for 60 months for pilots under age 40, and 24 months for applicants who are age 40 or older.



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