LE LABO DU PILOTE

Your student's pilot medical

When to take it, where, and what to bring. A free sheet to print or pass on.

When

Professional student (CPL, ATPL, MPL): the initial class 1 **before committing to training fees**.

Private student (PPL, LAPL): class 2 or the LAPL certificate **before the first solo flight**.

So the medical is prepared at enrolment, or just before.

Which class

Class 1: professional licences. Valid 12 months, 6 months from age 60.

Class 2: private pilots. Valid 60 months before 40, 24 months from 40 to 49, 12 months after.

Class 1 includes class 2 privileges. Exceptions by age and activity: see the calculator below.

Where

The initial class 1 **must be taken at an approved aeromedical centre (AeMC)**. Renewals can be done with an AME.

Class 2: with an AME (aeromedical examiner) or at an AeMC.

The right order: a **preliminary talk with an AME**, then the initial at a centre, booked early. No country publishes waiting times; in Belgium, allow up to almost a year between request and result (field estimate).

What to bring

1. A valid identity document.
2. Glasses or contact lenses, their prescription and a spare pair.
3. Recent prescriptions and reports of any treatment or test.
4. The licence or logbook, if the student already has one.
5. For an initial class 1: an appointment booked early, more time and budget than a class 2.

The 48 hours before: no alcohol the day before, no excess coffee in the morning, a real night's sleep. And nothing to hide from the AME: an omission found later costs far more than a point raised.

The full checklist, station by station
labodupilote.fr/en/aviation-medical-checklist.html

The medical certificate validity calculator
labodupilote.fr/en/medical-certificate-validity-calculator.html

This sheet does not judge anyone's fitness: the decision always rests with the doctor. Written by Fabian Voncken, airline pilot (ATPL) and former nurse, based on the EU regulation (Part-MED). Updated: November 2026. labodupilote.fr