



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2025

Contact: Bailey Wood

Email: BaileyW@verticalavi.org

Phone: 571-234-5582

PRESS RELEASE

VAI Applauds FAA Decision on Improvement to Medical Certification

Agency announces steps to improve online medical certification process.

Alexandria, VA (Apr. 28, 2025) -- Vertical Aviation International (VAI) commends the FAA for its [decision to halt implementation of a controversial policy](#) that would have classified pilots' incomplete medical certification applications as denied, the same category occupied by pilots who have been evaluated as unfit to fly.

The FAA's announcement to shelve its plan to issue initial denials to pilots who provide incomplete examinations or paperwork occurred during an Apr. 23, 2025, stakeholder meeting focused on improving the airman medical certification process. This action comes following strong concerns raised by VAI and more than a dozen other aviation associations and labor unions. "There was a lot of stakeholder feedback, and we took it seriously and we are not going to do that," said FAA Acting Administrator Chris Rocheleau.

"This is a win for our members and for aviation professionals across the United States," says Cade Clark, chief government affairs officer for VAI. "Issuing denials for incomplete paperwork would have created misleading records and unintended career consequences. We're grateful the FAA listened."

Additionally, the FAA said it is working to improve the online [MedXPress portal](#) and modernize the medical process. The agency is also working with industry groups to remove barriers that discourage pilots and air traffic controllers from reporting and seeking care for mental health issues.

"These actions clearly show the FAA's commitment to engage the aviation community as true partners in safety and modernization," adds Clark. "This isn't just about avoiding harm—it's about building a system that works better for everyone."

VAI was among the 14 aviation groups that signed a [December 2024 letter](#) urging the FAA to reconsider the denial policy. The association also contributed to a joint pilot checklist to help members better prepare for medical exams and ensure complete and accurate submissions.

####

Vertical Aviation International (VAI), formerly Helicopter Association International (HAI), is the world's leading membership association dedicated to the vertical aviation industry, which encompasses all aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing.

Vertical Aviation International

1920 Ballenger Ave., 4th Flr. Alexandria, VA 22314 / 703-683-4646 / info@verticalavi.org / verticalavi.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2025

Contact: Bailey Wood

Email: BaileyW@verticalavi.org

Phone: 571-234-5582

PRESS RELEASE

Throughout its 76 years of fueling industry growth through connection, advocacy, safety, education, and support for its members' success, VAI has leveraged the power of vertical flight to strengthen communities worldwide. The association welcomes all facets of the vertical aviation industry, including manufacturers, operators, suppliers and vendors, pilots and maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals. For more information about VAI, please visit: <https://verticalavi.org>.

Vertical Aviation International

1920 Ballenger Ave., 4th Flr. Alexandria, VA 22314 / 703-683-4646 / info@verticalavi.org / verticalavi.org