Aviation Sunglasses Buyers Guide

As pilots, our eyes need protecting more than those involved in other activities. Intense carrying harmful UVA/UVB rays impact the eyes from all directions, often at a very high intensity.

Pilots need to be able to see clearly in order to make decisions quickly. We hope this guide enables you to choose the right eyewear, which protects your eyesight from degradation in the long term, and enables enhanced visibility consistently.

Remember, the choice of eyewear is ultimately an issue of flight safety, and long-term licence preservation!

Quality:

The key concerns for a pilot regarding sunlight, are UVA/UVB rays; and blue light transmittance. Your sunglasses should be reaching protection values somewhere close to 100%.

We also look for distortion-free lenses, whereby any distortions created by manufacturing are reduced as much as physically possible.

Frames

Shape:

The classic 'aviators', developed back in 1936 for the US military, gained popularity due to the teardrop design, which blocked out harmful rays coming from below- reflected from clouds. For those who spend their time above the clouds, cruising the airways, the aviator shape is a sound choice.

Size:

All our aviation targeted eyewear has been tested with a headset. Ultimately, we look for thin, lightweight frames, which fit snugly underneath the headset's ear seals, thus ensuring their performance is not degraded.

Frames should also be lightweight, strong, and comfortable.

Lenses:

Material:

Lenses should be strong, ideally impact and scratch resistant, due to the rigours of an aviation lifestyle. Tough lenses reduce distortion.

Colour:

Colour contrast is all important for defining shapes- other traffic for example, clearly.

Different colours will offer optimal contrast in different light conditions.

Neutral/Grey Lenses are popular for flying as there is no colour distortion. Offers true colour perception while reducing light intensity, filtering around 98%. Good for all-round use, and worn by military aircrew.

Grey-Green/AGX- The green tint is the most popular. It works with the eye to ensure colours transmitted match the sensitivity curve of the eye. The green tint only changes colours slightly, whilst ensuring sharp vision. They can filter 100% of harmful light.

A **Tan/Brown Lens**- these provide high contrast eye protection for bright, but overcast conditions. With increased contrast, shapes, for example an aircraft against a dull backdrop- will be earlier to pick out. They also offer excellent high contrast in winter conditions, and will filter 100% UV rays, and absorb blue light.

Polarised Lenses in Aviation

- are not recommended when aircraft have polarised, anti-glare gauges. While useful for blocking reflected light, polarisation may also interfere with visibility through an aircraft windscreen by enhancing scratches in laminated materials and mask the sparkle of light that reflects off shiny surfaces such as another aircraft's wing or windscreen.

Further information

We are always delighted to offer advice on any of our products. Please call +44 (0) 800 380 0577 or email enquiries@proviation.co.uk