



U.S. AIR FORCE

# USAF- AIRCREW SOFT CONTACT LENS PROGRAM

In Accordance With

AFI 48-123, para 6.19 (05 NOV 2013)



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AFI 48-123 (05 NOV 2013), para 6.19



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Aircrew are authorized to use soft contact lenses (SCLs) for vision correction provided they are in compliance with the requirements detailed in the USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens (ACSCL) Program .

Routine use of soft contact lenses do not require aeromedical waiver if criteria of USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens (ACSCL) Program are met.

The use of contact lenses is ***voluntary***, however program compliance is ***Mandatory*** for:

- Flying Class I/IA electing to wear contact lenses, ***on or off duty.***
- Flying Class II/IIU/III ***only if they use contacts for in-flight duties.*** They are encouraged to follow the program if they wear SCLs at any other time.

See AFI 48-123, para 6.19. – 6.19.2.3. for more details

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1. Use app

## APPROVED CONTACT LENSES / SOLUTIONS: 2018

### 1. Disposable/Frequent Replacement/Multi-Packaged

<u>TRADE NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Air Optix Aqua/Plus Hydraglyde	Alcon
Air Optix for Astigmatism	Alcon
Air Optix Night & Day Aqua	Alcon
Dailies Total 1	Alcon
PureVision Sph and Toric	Bausch + Lomb
PureVision2 Sph and Astig	Bausch + Lomb
SofLens Daily Disposable Sph and Astig	Bausch + Lomb
Ultra	Bausch + Lomb
Avaira (Vitality) Sph and Toric	CooperVision
Biofinity Sph and Toric DW/EW	CooperVision
Biomedics 55 UV Sph and Toric DW/EW	CooperVision
Frequency 55 Aspheric and Toric FW	CooperVision
Acuvue 2	Johnson & Johnson
Acuvue Oasys Sph and Astig	Johnson & Johnson
Acuvue Oasys 1-Day Sph and Astig	Johnson & Johnson
Acuvue Vita	Johnson & Johnson
1•Day Acuvue (TruEye & Moist) Sph/Astig	Johnson & Johnson

### 2. Conventional Toric

Hydrasoft Toric DW/EW	CooperVision
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3. Disinfection systems: AOSEPT or Clear Care by Alcon  
Oxysept UltraCare by Abbott Medical Optics (AMO)

4. SCL Lubricating/Rewetting Drops, SCL Daily Cleaner, Saline Rinse: Any brand as long as all solutions used are from the same manufacturer.

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## USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens (ACSCL) Program Criteria

### 2. Use approved contact lens solutions.



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## USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens (ACSCL) Program Criteria

### 3. **Maintain currency**

- Mandatory Fitting and Follow-up:
  - Initial Fitting must have f/u at 7 days, 1 month, and 12 months. Member cannot wear lenses for flying during the first 7 days of wear.
  - Experienced wearers (>6 months wear) can be seen annually
- Contact lenses must never be worn during sleep or for more than 24 hours, unless operationally required.

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## USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens (ACSCCL) Program Criteria

### 4. All Aircrew must

- Meet all vision standards with contact lenses
- Have no more than 2.00 D of astigmatism on spectacle Rx
- Carry at least 2 pairs of back up spectacles in flight

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## Why have an approved list?

- Less than 60% water to prevent dehydration
- Logistics of supporting all possible lenses on market
  - Over 100 lens manufacturers in the U.S.
- Allows optometrist to be familiar with lenses fit by other providers

## How is list determined?

- Air Force Optometry Consultant polls ODs yearly
  - New products added as need arises
  - Old products removed if no longer being used

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Specialty or medically required lenses must be authorized by aeromedical waiver

These include:

- Rigid lenses for irregular corneas (i.e. keratoconus)
- Astigmatism  $> 2.00$  D
- Other lenses not on approved list

Use of bifocal contact lenses or monovision (one eye corrected for near, one eye for far) are **NOT** allowed.

Bifocals (flat top) may be worn over contact lenses as needed for near vision. Must be approved aircrew frame.

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## Complications associated with contact lens overwear



GPC (Giant Papillary Conjunctivitis)  
Allergic response to SCL deposits



CLARE (Contact Lens induced Acute Red Eye)  
Watery, irritation, blur

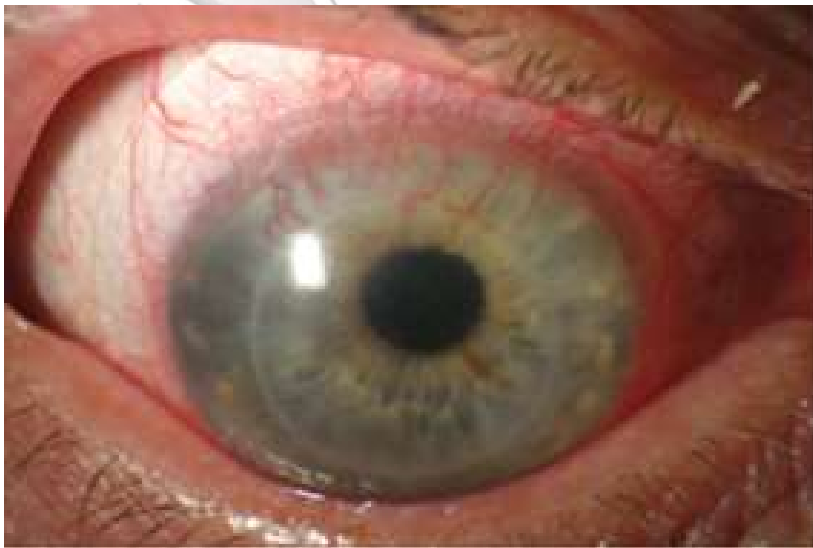


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## Complications associated with contact lens overwear



Corneal Neovascularization – Typically asymptomatic



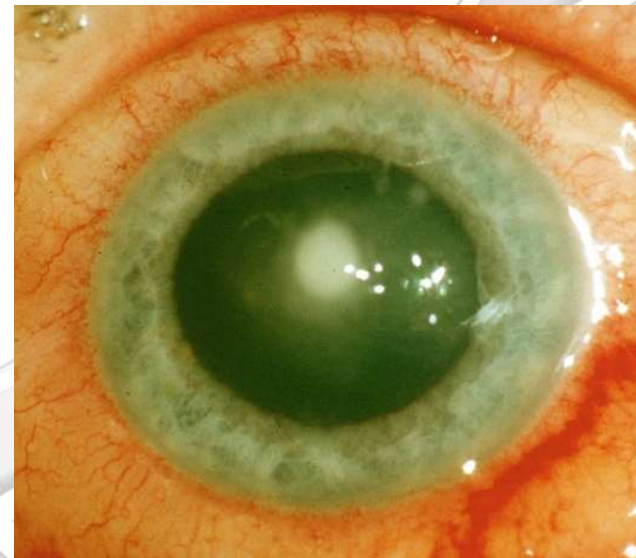
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## Complications associated with contact lens overwear



Corneal Ulcer- moderate to severe pain, photophobia, blurred vision

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## Complications associated with contact lens overwear



Dry eye – foreign body sensation, photophobia, blurred vision

\*most common complication

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## ACSCCL Program Administration

- Responsibility of the Flight Surgeon's Office (FSO)
- Aircrew requesting initial SCL fitting must notify FSO
- Aircrew wearing contact lenses must report use and any complications to FSO
  - Any complications must be reported within 72 hrs
  - Complications submitted on the ACSCCL Incident Report Form found on the Kx
  - Forward the report to:

USAF Aircrew SCL Medical Surveillance Team

USAFSAM/FECO

2510 Fifth Street

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7913

Email: [USAFSAM.AP.Mgr@us.af.mil](mailto:USAFSAM.AP.Mgr@us.af.mil)

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## ACSCL Program Administration

### Funding:

- Flying squadron commander may purchase contact lenses and supplies with unit funds for FC II/IIU/III if operation justification to fly with contacts exists.
- FCI members are not authorized funding. Note that only UPT students who were fit with authorized contacts at least 6 months prior to UPT will be allowed to wear contacts during training.



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## ACSCL Program Administration

### Mobility:

- Deployed aircrew may wear contacts unless prohibited by AOR policy.
- If wearing disposable contacts, must carry 3 month supply of factory sealed lenses.
- Must carry 1 month supply of solution.
- Must have minimum of 2 pair clear and 2 pair prescription sunglasses
- Aircrew flight equipment retains responsibility to maintain USAF approved SCL solutions for deployment

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## Program information and references

USAF Aircrew Soft Contact Lens Program

<https://kx.afms.mil/kj/kx2/AFContactLensProgram/Pages/home.aspx>

USAF-Optometry

<https://kx.afms.mil/kj/kx6/OptometryOphthalmicTechnicians/Pages/home.aspx>

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