

FAA PILOT REQUIREMENTS - up thru PRIVATE Pilot

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR GLIDER PILOT CERTIFICATES

Last Updated: Feb 18, 2004

Please see adjacent page
for information regarding
Commercial Pilot - Glider

Several new definitions were added to FAR 61.1 to replace the more familiar dual and solo that survived for many years.

PILOT TIME: that time in which a person -

- serves as a required flight crewmember;
- receives training from an authorized flight instructor; or,
- gives training as an authorized flight instructor.

TRAINING TIME: training received -

- in flight by an authorized flight instructor; or,
- on the ground by an authorized instructor.

FLIGHT TRAINING: training, other than ground training, received from an authorized flight instructor in flight, in an aircraft.

GROUND TRAINING: training, other than flight training, received from an authorized instructor.

Student Glider Pilot: FAR 61.81-61.95. Student Pilot certificates may be obtained from any designated aviation medical examiner, any examiner, or any Flight Standards District Office (FSDO.)

The applicant must be at least 14 years of age and be able to read, speak, write, and understand English.

Prior to being allowed to fly "solo" the student pilot must meet the requirements of the aeronautical knowledge defined in 61.87 (a), (b), (c), and (l), and have appropriate logbook and student certificate endorsements. Without further endorsements, student pilots are not permitted to operate solo in Class B airspace.

Private Glider Pilot: FAR 61.102-61.117

The applicant for a private pilot-glider certificate must meet requirements for aeronautical knowledge, experience, and demonstrate proficiency as defined in those sections of the FAR.

- Age requirement: at least 16 years of age.
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand English.
- Pass a knowledge test on areas defined by FAR 61.105, including weather, aircraft operation, aerodynamics, and applicable FAR's. (Initial certificate issuance.)
- As per FAR 61.31(j), a logbook endorsement for the type of launch(s) proficiently demonstrated by the applicant will be made as part of the recommendation by the flight instructor for the applicant to take the practical test.
- During the practical flight test, demonstrate proficiency in areas described in FAR 61.107, including launches, performance maneuvers, emergencies, and landings.
- The experience requirements, as described in FAR 61.109 (f), vary according to previous flight experience.
- For applicants who **HAVE NOT** logged at least 40 hours of flight time as a pilot; at least 10 hours of flight time in a glider, including;
 - a. 20 training flights; and,
 - b. 2 hours of solo flights in gliders with not less than 10 launches and landings; and,
 - c. 3 training flights in preparation for the practical test.

Simply put, the applicant must have logged at least 10 hours in gliders and made at least 30 flights.

- For applicants who **HAVE** logged at least 40 hours of flight time as a pilot; at least 3 hours of flight time in a glider, including;
 - a. 10 solo flights; and
 - b. 3 training flights in preparation for the practical test.

Simply put, the applicant must have logged at least 3 hours in gliders and made at least 20 flights (of which 10 were solo flights); plus flights required to qualify for solo privileges.