

FAA PILOT REQUIREMENTS

COMMERCIAL PILOT - Glider rating

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL GLIDER PILOT CERTIFICATES

Last Updated: Feb 18, 2004

Please see adjacent page
for information regarding
Student Pilot - Glider and
Private Pilot - Glider

Several new definitions were added to FAR 61.1 to replace the more familiar terms "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.

Commercial Pilot-Glider: FAR 61.121-61.133

- Age requirement: at least 18 years of age.
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand English.
- Hold at least a private pilot certificate (for heavier-than-air aircraft.)
- **For initial certificate issuance**, pass a knowledge test (FAR 61.125) and practical test (61.127). The launch method(s) endorsed in the pilot's logbook (61.31(j)) determines in which type of launch(s) the pilot has demonstrated proficiency.
- There are **two levels of flight experience** required for issuance of a commercial certificate; (one or the other will qualify the candidate)
 1. At least 25 hours as a pilot in gliders, including;
 - a. 100 flights in gliders as pilot in command; and,
 - b. 3 hours of flight training or 10 training flights in gliders; and,
 - c. 2 hours of solo flight to include not less than 10 solo flights; and,
 - d. 3 training flights in preparation for the flight test.

Simply put, the applicant must have logged at least 25 hours in gliders and made at least 110 flights.

2. Have logged at least 200 hours in aircraft; including,
 - a. 20 flights in gliders as pilot in command; and,
 - b. 3 hours of flight training or 10 training flights; and,
 - c. 5 solo flights in a glider; and,
 - d. 3 training flights in preparation for the flight test.

Simply put, an applicant with at least 200 hours in aircraft must have logged at least 3 hours and 30 flights in gliders ((20 flights as P-I-C; and in-addition-to flights required to qualify for solo privileges (which will vary from pilot to pilot), but generally at least 10 training flights)).