

Endorsements and Pilot Qualifications

Recreational Pilots, 61 Subpart D

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.96 Eligibility

- Must be 17 years old
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language
 - ICAO Level 4 English
 - See AC 60-28B, Appendix A for evaluation
- Hold a student or sport pilot certificate
- Pass a knowledge test
- Meet the aeronautical experience requirements of 61.99

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.97 Aeronautical Knowledge

- Need to complete ground training OR a home study course for the knowledge on the areas in 61.97(b)
- Pass a knowledge test
 - Need the **A.25 endorsement** for the knowledge test for ground training
 - Need the **A.82 endorsement** for the knowledge test for a home-study course



61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.98 Flight Proficiency

- Preflight preparation, procedures
- Airport operations
- Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds
- Performance maneuvers
- Ground reference maneuvers
- Navigation
- Slow flight and stalls
- Emergency operations
- Postflight procedures

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.99 Aeronautical Experience

- 15 hours of flight training
- 2 hours flight training to an airport > 25nm away
 - 3 takeoffs and landings at the other airport
- 3 hours of training before the practical test
- 3 hours solo flight time

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.101 Limitations - Aircraft Limitations

- No more than 4 seats
- No multi-engine airplanes
- No more than 180 horsepower
- No retractable landing gear
- Note: Under the supervision of an instructor for the pursuit of a rating, they can fly higher power/more complex airplanes
 - This requires [A.30 endorsement](#)

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.101 Limitations - Operation Limitations

- Can't carry more than 1 passengers
- Must share expenses on pro-rata basis
- No flight for compensation/hire, furtherance of a business/demonstrate an airplane
- No flight sunset to sunrise (except for additional certificate or rating)
- No flight above 10,000' MSL or 2000' AGL, which ever is higher
- When flight/surface visibility < 3 s.m.
- Without visual reference to surface
- Can't fly outside the U.S.
- No charitable organization flights

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.101 Limitations - Operation Limitations

- Need endorsement to fly within 50nm
 - Needs the [A.27 endorsement](#)
- Can't fly beyond 50nm without
 - Completing ground & flight training XC training requirements for a private pilot
 - Received the [A.28 endorsement](#)



61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

61.101 Limitations - Operation Limitations (cont.)

- Can't fly in Class A, B, C, D airspace, or any airport with a control tower, unless
 - Received ground and flight training on ATC operations
 - Received the [A.31 endorsement](#)
 - The "dirty dozen" Class B airports which require a private pilot certificate
- Until you have 400 hours of PIC time, you need a CFI endorsement every 180 days
 - The endorsement [A.29 endorsement](#)
 - Note: You still need a Flight Review per 61.56

61 Subpart D: Recreational Pilots

Recommendation for the Practical Test

1. A.25 endorsement or A.82 endorsement to take the knowledge test
2. Passing knowledge test result
3. A.1 endorsement: Preparation for the practical test
4. A.2 endorsement: Review of any missed questions on knowledge test (if required)
5. A.26 endorsement: Flight proficiency/practical test