

Endorsements, Logbook Entries, and Flight Reviews

Objective

To understand and apply the required endorsement for pilot training and currency when providing instruction.

Motivation

Giving endorsements is a large part of a CFI's roles, so it is important to know when endorsements are required and how to properly apply them.

Overview

- Logbook requirements
- Flight reviews
- Endorsements
- Aircraft Category / Class Ratings
- Student pilot privileges and limitations
- Flight instructor currency requirements

61.51 Logbook Requirements for All Pilots

- Pilots need to maintain records:
 - For the requirements of a certificate or rating
 - For the recent flight experience requirements
- Logbook entries
 - Date
 - Total flight time or lesson time
 - Origin and destination
 - Type and identification of aircraft (or sim or ATD)
 - The name of a safety pilot, if required
 - Type of pilot experience or training: Solo, dual, PIC, SIC
 - Conditions of flight: Day, night, actual instrument, simulated instrument, simulator



Acting vs Logging Pilot-in-command time

- To act as PIC: Must be appropriately rated
 - Including flight reviews, passenger currency
 - Including IFR currency
 - Including tailwheel, high-performance, complex endorsements
 - Include type ratings, if required
- To log PIC time: Sole manipulator of the controls
 - Also, when two pilots are required for the given operation
 - For example: IFR safety pilot or type rated A/C requiring two crew members
 - Safety pilot may log any hood time as PIC time

Letters of Interpretation

- 1980 Jones Letter: Logging PIC separate from acting PIC
- 1993 Hicks Letter: Hood flight time is an operation requiring two pilots
- 2009 Speranza Letter: Without hood time, only one person can log PIC time
- 2013 Richards Letter: HP/complex endorsements not required to log PIC time
- 2013 Creech Letter: Safety pilot is a required crew member

61.56 Flight Reviews

- Minimum of 1 hour of flight training and 1 hour of ground training
 - A review of the current general operating and flight rules of part 91 of this chapter; and
 - A review of those maneuvers and procedures that, at the discretion of the person giving the review, are necessary for the pilot to demonstrate the safe exercise of the privileges of the pilot certificate.
- Completion with the A.65 endorsement
- Good for 2 years (to the end of the month)

61.56 Flight Reviews (cont.)

- Things that can be used as a flight review:
 - A pilot proficiency check or practical test conducted by an examiner
 - The issuance of a flight instructor certificate
 - An additional rating on a flight instructor certificate
 - A practical test to reinstate a flight instructor privileges

Instructor Record-Keeping Requirements - 61.189

- An instructor sign the logbook of each person you give training to
- Maintain a record of endorsements:
 - Anyone endorsed for solo flight (90-days)
 - Anyone endorsed for a knowledge or practical test, plus the results of the test
- Keep these records for 3 years

Endorsement Format

- AC 61-65J has practical information about flight training and endorsements
- Appendix A has listed sample endorsements, A.1 - A.92
- RE: Instructor recent experience end date or certificate expiration date

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[date] <instructor signature> J. J. Jones 987654321CFI RE 12-31-2026
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Practical Test Endorsements

- The **A.1 endorsement** is required for all practical tests

A1. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has received and logged training time within 2 calendar months preceding the month of application in preparation for the practical test and they are prepared for the required practical test for the issuance of [applicable] certificate.

- The **A.2 endorsement** is required for reviewing incorrect answers on a knowledge test

A2. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of the subject areas in which they were deficient on the [applicable] airman knowledge test.

Aircraft Category and Classes

Categories are broad

- Airplane
- Rotorcraft
- Glider
- Lighter-than-air

Class are within a category

- Airplane
 - Single-engine
 - Multi-engine
 - Land
 - Sea
- Rotorcraft
 - Gyroplane
 - Helicopter
- Lighter-than-air
 - Airship
 - Free balloon

61.63 Adding an Aircraft Class Rating

Example: Private Airplane SEL to Private Airplane MEL

- 61.63(b) Pilot will need:
 - Needs to be proficient in aeronautical knowledge and areas of operation
 - Does *not* need the specified aeronautical experience
 - Does *not* need to take a written test, provided the pilot holds a powered aircraft rating
- 61.31(d) To fly solo in an aircraft class which they are not rated:
 - They need training and the **A.72 endorsement**
 - Note that this endorsement does not have an expiration, unless one is added by the instructor

61.63 Adding an Aircraft Category Rating

Example: Commercial Private Helicopter to Commercial Airplane SEL

- 61.63(c) A pilot looking to add an additional aircraft class rating:
 - Needs to be proficient in aeronautical knowledge and areas of operation
 - Needs to meet the aeronautical experience requirements of the certificate
 - Does *not* need to take a written test, provided the pilot holds a powered aircraft rating
- 61.31(d) To fly solo in an aircraft class which they are not rated:
 - They training and the the **A.72 endorsement**
 - Note that this endorsement does not have an expiration, unless one is added by the instructor

Additional Category or Class Rating Practical Test

- Need A.1 endorsement - Training within previous 2 months
- Need A.2 endorsement - Deficiencies on written exam, if knowledge test is required
- Need A.74 endorsement, stating the applicant is ready for the practical test

I certify that [First name, MI, Last name], [grade of pilot certificate], [certificate number], has received the required training for an additional [aircraft category/class rating]. I have determined that they are prepared for the [name of] practical test for the addition of a [name of specific aircraft category/class/type] type rating.

Student Pilots

61 Subpart C: Student pilots

61.83 Eligibility

- Must be 16
- Read write and understand English
 - ICAO Level 4 English
 - See AC 60-28B, Appendix A for evaluation
- 3rd Class Medical, or BasicMed
- Student pilot application via IACRA

Student pilots

61.87 Initial solo

- In order to solo, a student pilot needs to
 - A student pilot certificate
 - Take a pre-solo knowledge test, given by the endorsing instructor
 - Need training on the items in 61.87d, the "15 things"
 - A 90-day solo endorsement

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.87 Pre-solo knowledge test

- Test must be a written or online test:
 - Applicable sections of parts 61 and 91 of this chapter;
 - Airspace rules and procedures for the airport where the solo flight will be performed; and
 - Flight characteristics and operational limitations for the make and model of aircraft to be flown.
- Provide the **A.3 endorsement**

I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has satisfactorily completed the pre-solo knowledge test of § 61.87(b) for the [make and model (M/M)] aircraft.

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.87 Pre-solo training areas

- Items listed in [61.87d](#) (the "15 things")
- Demonstrate proficiency in make/model OR similar make/model
- Provide the **A.4 endorsement**

A4. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has received and logged pre-solo flight training for the maneuvers and procedures that are appropriate to the [M/M] aircraft. I have determined they have demonstrated satisfactory proficiency and safety on the maneuvers and procedures required by § 61.87 in this or similar make and model of aircraft to be flown.



Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.87 Solo Endorsement

- Provide the **A.6 endorsement**, good for 90 days
- Past the first 90 days, you would give the **A.7 endorsement**
- Good for 90 days, limited to a single make + model
- Instructor can add any limitation they desire to the endorsement

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.87 Solo Endorsement

A6. I certify that <student first + last name> has received the required training to qualify for solo flying. I have determined they meet the applicable requirements of § 61.87(n) and are proficient to make solo flights in T182.

Limitations:

Total wind < 15 knots, ceiling > 3000 ft., < 5 knots crosswind.

Must text or email instructor prior to flight.

Pre-Solo Student Checklist

1. PAVE
2. Aircraft airworthy: AV1ATED
3. Aircraft documents: ARROW
4. NWKRAFT
 - i. NOTAMs
 - ii. Weather
 - iii. Runway lengths
 - iv. Fuel requirements
 - v. Takeoff/landing distances
5. Call or text

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.89 General limitations

- No passengers
- No compensation or hire
- Flight visibility > 3 s.m. in the day, > 5 s.m. at night
- Need visual reference to the surface
- Cannot fly contrary to any instructor limitation

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.93 Solo XC

- Prior to the Solo XC endorsement, student can only
 - Fly within 25nm of their origin
 - Land at their home airport

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.93 Repeated Flights to airport within 25nm

- Don't need solo XC training
- Instructor gives training on
 - Flying to and from the airport
 - Entering and existing the traffic pattern
 - Takeoffs and landings
- The purpose must be for takeoff and landing practice at the airport
- Instructor provides the **A.8 endorsement** for the specific airport

A8. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has received the required training of § 61.93(b)(1). I have determined that they are proficient to practice solo takeoffs and landings at [airport name]. The takeoffs and landings at [airport name] are subject to the following conditions: [List any applicable conditions or limitations.]

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.93 Solo XC Training

- Must receive training on XC maneuvers and procedure listed in [61.93e](#) (the "12 things")
- Provide the **A.9 endorsement**
- Then, for each XC flight they must be given a specific **A.10 endorsement**, ensuring:
 - The student's flight planning is correct
 - Flight can be completed in VFR
 - Student is proficient and has a current 90-day endorsement (A.6 or A.7)

A9. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has received the required solo cross-country training. I find they have met the applicable requirements of § 61.93 and are proficient to make solo cross-country flights in a [M/M] aircraft, [aircraft category].

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.93 Solo XC Checklist

1. A pre-solo knowledge test and **A.3 endorsement**
2. Flight training per 61.87d and **A.4 endorsement**
3. 90-solo flight endorsement, **A.6** (initial) or **A.7** (recurring)
4. Flight training on 61.93e and a **A.9 endorsement**
5. Endorsement for the specific XC flight to be completed: **A.11 endorsement**

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

Repeated flights within 50nm

- Usually you need to provide and A.10 endorsement for *each* flight
- However, students can make repeated flights to airports within 50nm provided you:
 - Fly with them to/from the airport
 - Enter the traffic pattern
 - Do takeoffs/landings
 - Provide the **A.11 endorsement**

A11. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has received the required training in both directions between and at both [airport names]. I have determined that they are proficient of § 61.93(b)(2) to conduct repeated solo cross-country flights over that route, subject to the following conditions: [List any applicable conditions or limitations.]

Knowledge Check: Joann

After training with another instructor and completing their first solo, Joann wants to finish her private pilot training with you as her instructor. She holds a student pilot certificate and a 3rd class medical, and an 90 day solo endorsement given by their old instructor. You will fly in the same make/model of aircraft as the previous instructor.

In order to perform a solo cross country flight, what flight training and endorsements will you need to provide?

Knowledge Check: Joann

1. A pre-solo knowledge test and A.3 endorsement - other instructor endorsement ok
2. Flight training per 61.87d and A.4 endorsement - other instructor endorsement ok
3. 90-solo flight endorsement, A.7 (recurring) - other instructor ok, until 90 days is up
4. Flight training on 61.93e and a A.9 endorsement - give this
5. Endorsement for the specific XC flight to be completed: A.10 - give this

Student Pilots (61 Subpart C)

61.95 Solo in Class B Airspace

- Students can be endorsed to fly in a *specific* Class B airspace
 - Requires the A.12 endorsement for flight in Class B airspace
 - Requires the A.13 endorsement for flight landing/departing from the primary airport (or an outlying airport)
- Some airports require a PPL or higher to operate at the airport (the "dirty dozen")
 - These are listed in [Part 91 Appendix D, Section 4](#)
 - Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL TX; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; New York, NY; etc.
 - Students can still operate in the airspace, however
- Class B endorsements have a 90 day limit

61 Subpart H: Flight Instructors

61.197 Recent Experience

- To maintain currency, within the preceding 24 calendar months:
 - Take a CFI refresher course (FIRC)
 - Take a practical test for your current instructor rating, or a new rating
 - Recommend 5 applicants for checkrides and have an 80% first-time pass rate
 - Complete a phase of the WINGS program and provide 15 hours of flight time for at least 5 pilots
- If an instructor's recency has lapsed, within 3 months you can:
 - Take a practical test for current or new instructor rating
 - Take a FIRC
- Note a practical test can be used in lieu of a flight review, but a FIRC cannot

TSA Security Training (49 CFR Part 1552)

- Instructors need Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) portal account
- Instructor needs a refresher TSA security awareness training every 24 months
- Provide proof of citizenship at the onset on training, give the A.14 endorsement
- Keep these records for 5 years

A14. I certify that [First name, MI, Last name] has presented me a [type of document presented, such as a U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport, and the relevant control or sequential number on the document, if any] establishing that they are a U.S. citizen or national in accordance with 49 CFR § 1552.15(c).

More information on the [AOPA NTSP page](#)

Summary

- Logbook requirements: Required to log for ratings and currency
- Flight reviews: Every two years, 1 hour flight and 1 hour ground
- Endorsements: Complex, high performance, tailwheel
- Aircraft Category / Class Ratings
- Pre-solo checklist
- Student pilot privileges and limitations
- Flight instructor currency requirements