

Endorsements and Pilot Qualifications

Sport Pilots, 61 Subpart J

61 Subpart J: Sport Pilots

61.301 Eligibility

- Must be 17 years old
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language
- Pass a knowledge test and practical test
- US driver's license, FAA medical, or BasicMed

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61.309 Aeronautical Knowledge

- Must receive and log ground training OR follow a home-study course for the areas listed 61.309
- Must take a written test on these areas
 - A.17 endorsement

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61.311 Flight Proficiency Requirements

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

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61.311 Aeronautical Experience Requirements

- 20 hours total flight time
 - 15 hours flight time in single-engine airplane
 - 2 hours XC flight training
 - 10 takeoffs and landings to a full stop
 - 2 hours of flight training within 2 calendar months for checkride preparation
 - 5 hours of solo flight time
 - One solo XC flight of at least 75nm with full-stop takeoffs and landings at three points, one segment is at least 25nm
- No exceptions for training on small islands

Light Sport Airplane

- 14 CFR 1.1
- An airplane, since its original certification, has continued to meet the following:
 - Takeoff weight of < 1320 lbs.
 - $V_H < 120$ knots CAS (maximum airspeed in level flight)
 - V_{S1} of < 45 knots
 - No more than two seats
 - Single, reciprocating engine
 - Fixed-pitch propeller (ground-adjustable ok)
 - Non-pressurized cabin
 - Fixed landing gear

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61.315 Privileges & Limitations

- Act as pilot in command of a light-sport aircraft
 - Or, a certified aircraft that meets the gross weight requirement for light sport
- Share a pro-rata share of expenses

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61.315 Privileges & Limitations (cont.)

- Cannot fly:
 - For compensation or hire
 - In the furtherance of a business
 - With more than 1 passenger
 - At night (end of civil twilight to morning civil twilight)
 - In Class A airspace
 - In Class B, C, D airspace, unless endorsed
 - Outside of the US
 - Demonstrate as a salesperson

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61.315 Privileges & Limitations (cont.)

- Cannot fly:
 - In a passenger-carrying capacity for a charitable organization
 - At altitudes higher than 10,000 MSL or 2000 AGL, whichever is higher
 - With surface visibility less than 3 s.m.
 - Without visual reference to the surface

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61.315 Privileges & Limitations (cont.)

- Aircraft restrictions:
 - V_H must be less than 87 KCAS (max speed in level flight with max continuous power)
 - Contrary to any operating limitations
 - Contrary to any restriction on their driver's license
 - Can't tow anything
 - Can't be a crew member on an airplane that requires more than one crew member

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61.317-321 Category and Class Ratings

- Sport pilots aren't granted category/class ratings
- Instead, all authorizations are done by endorsement
- Training for an additional category or class:
 - Receive a logbook endorsement from your primary instructor
 - A.18 endorsement from your primary instructor to take the proficiency check
 - Complete a proficiency check with a *different* sport pilot instructor
 - They will complete an 8710-11 and send it to the FAA
 - They will give the A.19 endorsement if you pass



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61.325 Flight in Class B, C, D Airspace

- One-time endorsement to operate in Class B, C, or D airspace, the A.22 endorsement
- This is good for all Class B airspace (not a specific one, like student pilot)
- The "dirty dozen" Class B airports still a private pilot certificate

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61.327 Flight in an Aircraft with Different V_H

- Flying a sport aircraft with a V_H less or equal to 87 KCAS requires an endorsement
 - A.23 endorsement
- Flying a sport aircraft with a V_H greater than 87 KCAS requires an endorsement
 - A.24 endorsement