Federal Aviation Administration, DOT

§ 61.100

(a) General. A person who applies for a recreational pilot certificate must receive and log ground and flight training from an authorized instructor on the areas of operation of this section that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought.

(b) Areas of operation. (1) For a single-engine airplane rating: (i) Preflight preparation; (ii) Preflight procedures; (iii) Airport operations; (iv) Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds; (v) Performance maneuvers; (vi) Ground reference maneuvers; (vii) Navigation; (viii) Slow flight and stalls; (ix) Emergency operations; and (x) Postflight procedures.

(2) For a helicopter rating: (i) Preflight preparation; (ii) Preflight procedures; (iii) Airport and heliport operations; (iv) Hovering maneuvers; (v) Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds; (vi) Performance maneuvers; (vii) Ground reference maneuvers; (viii) Navigation; (ix) Emergency operations; and (x) Postflight procedures.

(3) For a gyroplane rating: (i) Preflight preparation; (ii) Preflight procedures; (iii) Airport operations; (iv) Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds; (v) Performance maneuvers; (vi) Ground reference maneuvers; (vii) Navigation; (viii) Flight at slow airspeeds; (ix) Emergency operations; and (x) Postflight procedures.

§ 61.101 Aeronautical experience.

A person who applies for a recreational pilot certificate must receive and log at least 30 hours of flight time that includes at least—

(a) 15 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor on the areas of operation listed in § 61.98 of this part that consists of at least:

(1) Except as provided in § 61.100 of this part, 2 hours of flight training en route to an airport that is located more than 25 nautical miles from the airport where the applicant normally trains, which includes at least three takeoffs and three landings at the airport located more than 25 nautical miles from the airport where the applicant normally trains; and

(2) Three hours of flight training with an authorized instructor in the aircraft for the rating sought in preparation for the practical test within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test.

(b) 3 hours of solo flying in the aircraft for the rating sought, on the areas of operation listed in § 61.98 of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought.

§ 61.102 Pilots based on small islands.

(a) An applicant located on an island from which the flight training required in § 61.98(a)(1) of this part cannot be accomplished without flying over water for more than 10 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline need not comply with the requirements of that section. However, if other airports that permit civil operations are available to which a flight may be made without flying over water for more than 10 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline, the applicant must show completion of a dual flight between two airports, which must include three landings at the other airport.

(b) An applicant who complies with paragraph (a) of this section and meets all requirements for the issuance of a recreational pilot certificate, except the requirements of § 61.98(a)(1) of this part, will be issued a pilot certificate with an endorsement containing the
§ 61.101 Recreational pilot privileges and limitations.

(a) A person who holds a recreational pilot certificate may:
   (1) Carry no more than one passenger; and
   (2) Not pay less than the pro rata share of the operating expenses of a flight with a passenger, provided the expenses involve only fuel, oil, airport expenses, or aircraft rental fees.

(b) A person who holds a recreational pilot certificate may act as pilot in command of an aircraft on a flight within 50 nautical miles from the departure airport, provided that person has—
   (1) Received ground and flight training for takeoff, departure, arrival, and landing procedures at the departure airport;
   (2) Received ground and flight training for the area, terrain, and aids to navigation that are in the vicinity of the departure airport;
   (3) Been found proficient to operate the aircraft at the departure airport and the area within 50 nautical miles from that airport; and
   (4) Received from an authorized instructor a logbook endorsement, which permits flight within 50 nautical miles from the departure airport.

(c) A person who holds a recreational pilot certificate may act as pilot in command of an aircraft on a flight that exceeds 50 nautical miles from the departure airport, provided that person has—
   (1) Received ground and flight training from an authorized instructor on the cross-country training requirements of subpart E of this part that apply to the aircraft rating held;
   (2) Been found proficient in cross-country flying; and
   (3) Received from an authorized instructor a logbook endorsement, which is carried on the person’s possession in the aircraft, that certifies the person has received and been found proficient in the cross-country training requirements of subpart E of this part that apply to the aircraft rating held.

(d) A person who holds a recreational pilot certificate may act as pilot in command of an aircraft in Class B, C, and D airspace, at an airport located in Class B, C, or D airspace, and to, from, through, or at an airport having an operational control tower, provided that person has—
   (1) Received and logged ground and flight training from an authorized instructor on the following aeronautical knowledge areas and areas of operation, as appropriate to the aircraft rating held:
      (i) The use of radios, communications, navigation system and facilities, and radar services.
      (ii) Operations at airports with an operating control tower to include three takeoffs and landings to a full stop, with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern at an airport with an operating control tower.
      (iii) Applicable flight rules of part 91 of this chapter for operations in Class B, C, and D airspace and air traffic control clearances;
   (2) Been found proficient in those aeronautical knowledge areas and areas of operation specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section; and
   (3) Received from an authorized instructor a logbook endorsement, which is carried on the person’s possession or readily accessible in the aircraft, that certifies the person has received and been found proficient in those aeronautical knowledge areas and areas of operation specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(e) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (i) of this section, a recreational pilot may not act as pilot in command of an aircraft—
   (1) That is certificated—
      (i) For more than four occupants;
      (ii) With more than one powerplant;