

We have only listed the helicopter requirements on this page. These are for reference only and are not a substitute for or supplement to actual, published FARs.

* This is a summation of the additional requirements to add-on a rotorcraft rating. The specific requirements to be aware of are highlighted. The minimum number of hours required by the FAA, under Part 61, for an Add-On is 55 hours: 20 hours dual and 35 hours PIC.

Federal Aviation Regulations Part 61

Subpart F—Commercial Pilots

§ 61.127 Flight proficiency.

(a) *General.* A person who applies for a commercial 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.

(3) For a rotorcraft category rating with a helicopter class 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) Navigation;
- (viii) Emergency operations;
- (ix) Special operations; and
- (x) Postflight procedures.

§ 61.129 Aeronautical experience.

(c) *For a helicopter rating.* Except as provided for in paragraph (i) of this section, a person who applies for a commercial pilot certificate with a rotorcraft category and helicopter class rating must log at least 150 hours of flight time as a pilot that consists of at least:

- (1) 100 hours in powered aircraft, of which 50 hours must be in helicopters.
- (2) 100 hours of pilot in command flight time, which includes at least—
 - (i) 35 hours in helicopters; and
 - (ii) 10 hours in cross-country flight in helicopters.
- (3) 20 hours of training on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(3) of this part that includes at least—
 - (i) 10 hours of instrument training in an aircraft;
 - (ii) One cross-country flight of at least 2 hours in a helicopter in day VFR conditions, consisting of a total straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure;
 - (iii) One cross-country flight of at least 2 hours in a helicopter in night VFR conditions, consisting of a total straight-line distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure; and
 - (iv) 3 hours in a helicopter in preparation for the practical test within the 60-day period preceding the date of the test.
- (4) 10 hours of solo flight in a helicopter on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b)(3) of this part, which includes at least—
 - (i) One cross-country flight with landings at a minimum of three points, with one segment consisting of a straight-line distance of at least 50 nautical miles from the original point of departure; and
 - (ii) 5 hours in night VFR conditions with 10 takeoffs and 10 landings (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern).