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Federal Aviation Regulations Part 61 **Subpart F—Commercial Pilots**

§ 61.121 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes the requirements for the issuance of commercial pilot certificates and ratings, the conditions under which those certificates and ratings are necessary, and the general operating rules for persons who hold those certificates and ratings.

§ 61.123 Eligibility requirements: General.

To be eligible for a commercial pilot certificate, a person must:

- (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Be able to read, speak, write, and understand the English language. If the applicant is unable to meet one of these requirements due to medical reasons, then the Administrator may place such operating limitations on that applicant's pilot certificate as are necessary for the safe operation of the aircraft.
- (c) Receive a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor who:
 - (1) Conducted the required ground training or reviewed the person's home study on the aeronautical knowledge areas listed in Sec. 61.125 of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought; and
 - (2) Certified that the person is prepared for the required knowledge test that applies to the aircraft category and class rating sought.
- (d) Pass the required knowledge test on the aeronautical knowledge areas listed in Sec. 61.125 of this part;
- (e) Receive the required training and a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor who:
 - (1) Conducted the training on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b) of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought; and
 - (2) Certified that the person is prepared for the required practical test.
- (f) Meet the aeronautical experience requirements of this subpart that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought before applying for the practical test;
- (g) Pass the required practical test on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.127(b) of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought;
- (h) Hold at least a private pilot certificate issued under this part or meet the requirements of Sec. 61.73; and
- (i) Comply with the sections of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought.

§ 61.125 Aeronautical knowledge.

- (a) *General.* A person who applies for a commercial pilot certificate must receive and log ground training from an authorized instructor, or complete a home-study course, on the aeronautical knowledge areas of paragraph (b) of this section that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought.
- (b) *Aeronautical knowledge areas.*
 - (1) Applicable Federal Aviation Regulations of this chapter that relate to commercial pilot privileges, limitations, and flight operations;
 - (2) Accident reporting requirements of the National Transportation Safety Board;
 - (3) Basic aerodynamics and the principles of flight;
 - (4) Meteorology to include recognition of critical weather situations, windshear recognition and avoidance, and the use of aeronautical weather reports and forecasts;
 - (5) Safe and efficient operation of aircraft;
 - (6) Weight and balance computations;
 - (7) Use of performance charts;
 - (8) Significance and effects of exceeding aircraft performance limitations;
 - (9) Use of aeronautical charts and a magnetic compass for pilotage and dead reckoning;
 - (10) Use of air navigation facilities;
 - (11) Aeronautical decision making and judgment;
 - (12) Principles and functions of aircraft systems;
 - (13) Maneuvers, procedures, and emergency operations appropriate to the aircraft;
 - (14) Night and high-altitude operations;
 - (15) Procedures for operating within the National Airspace System; and

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(16) Procedures for flight and ground training for lighter-than-air ratings.

§ 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).