

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.

Federal Aviation Regulations Part 61 **Subpart E—Private Pilots**

§ 61.102 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes the requirements for the issuance of private 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.

§ 61.103 Eligibility requirements: General.

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

- (a) Be at least 17 Year of age for a rating in other than a glider or balloon.
- (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 training or reviewed the person's home study on the aeronautical knowledge areas listed in Sec. 61.105(b) of this part that apply to the aircraft rating sought; and
 - (2) Certified that the person is prepared for the required knowledge test.
- (d) Pass the required knowledge test on the aeronautical knowledge areas listed in Sec. 61.105(b) of this part.
- (e) Receive flight training and a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor who:
 - (1) Conducted the training in the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.107(b) of this part that apply to the aircraft rating sought; and
 - (2) Certified that the person is prepared for the required practical test.
- (f) Meet the aeronautical experience requirements of this part that apply to the aircraft rating sought before applying for the practical test.
- (g) Pass a practical test on the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.107(b) of this part that apply to the aircraft rating sought.
- (h) Comply with the appropriate sections of this part that apply to the aircraft category and class rating sought.

§ 61.105 Aeronautical knowledge.

- (a) *General.* A person who is applying for a private 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 private pilot privileges, limitations, and flight operations;
 - (2) Accident reporting requirements of the National Transportation Safety Board;
 - (3) Use of the applicable portions of the "Aeronautical Information Manual" and FAA ACs;
 - (4) Use of aeronautical charts for VFR navigation using pilotage, dead reckoning, and navigation systems;
 - (5) Radio communication procedures;
 - (6) Recognition of critical weather situations from the ground and in flight, windshear avoidance, and the procurement and use of aeronautical weather reports and forecasts;
 - (7) Safe and efficient operation of aircraft, including collision avoidance, and recognition and avoidance of wake turbulence;
 - (8) Effects of density altitude on takeoff and climb performance;
 - (9) Weight and balance computations;
 - (10) Principles of aerodynamics, powerplants, and aircraft systems;
 - (11) Stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery techniques for the airplane and glider category ratings;
 - (12) Aeronautical decision making and judgment; and
 - (13) Preflight action that includes—
 - (i) How to obtain information on runway lengths at airports of intended use, data on takeoff and landing distances, weather reports and forecasts, and fuel requirements; and

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.

(ii) How to plan for alternatives if the planned flight cannot be completed or delays are encountered.

§ 61.107 Flight proficiency.

(a) *General.* A person who applies for a private 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) Night operations, except as provided in Sec. 61.110 of this part; and
- (x) Postflight procedures.

§ 61.109 Aeronautical experience.

(c) *For a helicopter rating.* Except as provided in paragraph (i) of this section, a person who applies for a private pilot certificate with a rotorcraft category rating must receive and log at least 40 hours of flight time that includes at least 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training in the areas of operation listed in Sec. 61.107 (b)(3) of this part, and the training must include at least—

- (1) 3 hours of cross-country flight training in a helicopter;
- (2) Except as provided in Sec. 61.110 of this part, 3 hours of night flight training in a helicopter that includes—
 - (i) One cross-country flight of over 50 nautical miles total distance; and
 - (ii) 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport.
- (3) 3 hours of flight training in preparation for the practical test in a helicopter, which must have been performed within 60 days preceding the date of the test; and
- (4) 10 hours of solo flight time in a helicopter, consisting of at least—
 - (i) 3 hours cross-country flight time;
 - (ii) One solo cross-country flight of at least 75 nautical miles total distance, with landings at a minimum of three points, and one segment of the flight being a straight-line distance of at least 25 nautical miles between the takeoff and landing locations; and
 - (iii) Three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an airport with an operating control tower.