

Glider Pilot Currency

Overview - FAR Part 61 requires that pilots must be both current and proficient if they are to safely operate a glider. Currency requirements like, 61.56 *Flight Review*, and 61.57 *Recent flight experience: Pilot in command*, spell out the minimum amount of flight experience that a pilot needs to exercise the privileges of their pilot certificate.

Regulations like, 61.31(j)(1) *Type rating requirements, additional training, and authorization requirements*, and 61.107 *Flight proficiency* state that the pilot must be proficient in various flight maneuvers.

FAR 61.56 Flight Review regulation (called the **BFR**). - Summarizing paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) this regulation says that every pilot must receive at least 1 hour of ground instruction and 1 hour (*or 3 flights in a glider*) of flight instruction every 24 calendar months. The ground instruction must cover FAR Part 91 while the flight(s) must cover the maneuvers and procedures that demonstrate the pilot can safely exercise the privileges of their pilot certificate. One should note that paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) outline alternate methods of compliance.

Sec. 61.57 Recent flight experience: Pilot in command.

(a) General experience.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, no person may act as a pilot in command of an aircraft carrying passengers or of an aircraft certificated for more than one pilot flight crewmember unless that person has made at least three takeoffs and three landings within the preceding 90 days, and--

(i) The person acted as the sole manipulator of the flight controls; and

(ii) The required takeoffs and landings were performed in an aircraft of the same category, class, and type (if a type rating is required), and, if the aircraft to be flown is an airplane with a tailwheel, the takeoffs and landings must have been made to a full stop in an airplane with a tailwheel.

(2) For the purpose of meeting the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section, a person may act as a pilot in command of an aircraft under day VFR or day IFR, provided no persons or property are carried on board the aircraft, other than those necessary for the conduct of the flight.

(3) The takeoffs and landings required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section may be accomplished in a flight simulator or flight training device that is--

(i) Approved by the Administrator for landings; and

(ii) Used in accordance with an approved course conducted by a training center certificated under part 142 of this chapter.

Sec. 61.56 Flight review.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (f) of this section, a flight review consists of a minimum of 1 hour of flight training and 1 hour of ground training. The review must include:

(1) A review of the current general operating and flight rules of part 91 of this chapter; and

(2) A review of those maneuvers and procedures that, at the discretion of the person giving the review, are necessary for the pilot to demonstrate the safe exercise of the privileges of the pilot certificate.

(b) Glider pilots may substitute a minimum of three instructional flights in a glider, each of which includes a flight to traffic pattern altitude, in lieu of the 1 hour of flight training required in paragraph (a) of this section.

- (c) Except as provided in paragraphs (d), (e), and (g) of this section, no person may act as pilot in command of an aircraft unless, since the beginning of the 24th calendar month before the month in which that pilot acts as pilot in command, that person has--
 - (1) Accomplished a flight review given in an aircraft for which that pilot is rated by an authorized instructor; and
 - (2) A logbook endorsed from an authorized instructor who gave the review certifying that the person has satisfactorily completed the review.
- (d) A person who has, within the period specified in paragraph (c) of this section, passed a pilot proficiency check conducted by an examiner, an approved pilot check airman, or a U.S. Armed Force, for a pilot certificate, rating, or operating privilege need not accomplish the flight review required by this section.
- (e) A person who has, within the period specified in paragraph (c) of this section, satisfactorily accomplished one or more phases of an FAA-sponsored pilot proficiency award program need not accomplish the flight review required by this section.
- [(f) A person who holds a flight instructor certificate and who has, within the period specified in paragraph (c) of this section, satisfactorily completed a renewal of a flight instructor certificate under the provisions in Sec. 61.197 need not accomplish the one hour of ground training specified in paragraph (a) of this section.]
- (g) A student pilot need not accomplish the flight review required by this section provided the student pilot is undergoing training for a certificate and has a current solo flight endorsement as required under Sec. 61.87 of this part.
- (h) The requirements of this section may be accomplished in combination with the requirements of Sec. 61.57 and other applicable recent experience requirements at the discretion of the authorized instructor conducting the flight review.
- (i) A flight simulator or flight training device may be used to meet the flight review requirements of this section subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) The flight simulator or flight training device must be used in accordance with an approved course conducted by a training center certificated under part 142 of this chapter.
 - (2) Unless the flight review is undertaken in a flight simulator that is approved for landings, the applicant must meet the takeoff and landing requirements of Sec. 61.57(a) or Sec. 61.57(b) of this part.
 - (3) The flight simulator or flight training device used must represent an aircraft or set of aircraft for which the pilot is rated.

Sec. 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.
- (6) For a glider category rating:

- (i) Preflight preparation;
- (ii) Preflight procedures;
- (iii) Airport and gliderport operations;
- (iv) Launches and landings;
- (v) Performance speeds;
- (vi) Soaring techniques;
- (vii) Performance maneuvers;
- (viii) Navigation;
- (ix) Slow flight and stalls;
- (x) Emergency operations; and
- (xi) Postflight procedures.