



## REGULATION REFORM

# Getting your commercial pilot licence



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Learn about the rules for commercial pilots—  
in effect since 1 September 2014.

The full rules are contained in Part 61 of the  
Civil Aviation Safety Regulations.

This information sheet includes details about an exemption, CASA EX97/16, which came into effect on 1 July 2016. It provides an alternative to aircraft class rating and pilot type rating biennial flight reviews, with an aircraft category and multi-engine aircraft requirement.

### Who needs to know about the new rules for commercial pilots?

- › Pilots who want to gain a commercial pilot licence.
- › Flying instructors and flying training schools.
- › Flight examiners.

### What kind of operations does my commercial pilot licence authorise me to conduct?

A commercial pilot licence (CPL) authorises you to conduct private and commercial operations (refer to sub-regulation 2(7)(d) of the *Civil Aviation Regulations 1988*).

You can be the co-pilot in any operation, and the pilot-in-command in any operation except the following:

- › multi-crew aircraft in charter or regular public transport operations
- › an aeroplane certified for single-pilot operations with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of more than 5700kg in regular public transport operations
- › turbojet aeroplanes with a MTOW of more than 3500kg in regular public transport operations.

You must hold the appropriate aircraft category on your CPL and the class or type rating for the aircraft you want to fly. Refer to CASA's *Aircraft class ratings* and *Aircraft type ratings* information sheets for more details.

If you want to fly as pilot-in-command or co-pilot in a multi-crew operation, as well as holding the appropriate aircraft rating, you must have completed an approved course of training in multi-crew cooperation. If you conducted multi-crew operations before 1 September 2015, you don't have to complete that training.



# FACT SHEET

## How do I get my CPL?

You must be at least 18 years old to get your CPL. You also need to do the following for the category rating you want to get with your CPL:

- › learn the theory
- › complete flight training at a CASR Part 141 or 142 training organisation
- › meet the minimum aeronautical experience requirements (see below for more information)
- › pass the CPL theory exams for the category rating set by CASA
- › pass a CPL flight test for the licence and category rating.

These requirements must be met for each additional category rating you apply for once you have your CPL.

## What is involved in learning the CPL theory?

The theory syllabus for the CPL includes subjects such as flight rules and air law, aerodynamics, meteorology, navigation, human factors, operation, performance and planning, power plants and aircraft systems.

You can study the theory yourself if you have a self-learning course or you can attend classes at a flying school (contact a flying school to work out the best way for you to complete the theory training for the CPL).

If you are completing an integrated training course, the theory training is incorporated into the CPL training course.

The aeronautical knowledge standards are prescribed in Schedule 1 of the *Part 61 Manual of Standards* (MOS). The details of the knowledge standards for each unit are in Schedule 3 of the MOS.

## What is a CPL theory exam?

A CPL exam includes seven exam subjects. Three of the subject exams are common and only need to be passed once.

If you already have your CPL and want to gain an additional category rating, you need to pass the remaining four category-specific subject exams.

However, you need to pass the required exams within a two-year period.

More information about theory exams can be found on the CASA website. Flying schools can also provide details about the theory and exams.

## What do I need to know about my flight training for a CPL?

You need to complete a course of flight training with a Part 141 or Part 142 operator. It includes basic general flying, as well as cross-country and instrument flying.

Schools which held an AOC prior to 1 September 2014 can continue providing flight training using their old AOC until 31 August 2018 or when they obtain their Part 141 or Part 142 certificate.

There are two types of courses: integrated courses and non-integrated courses. Part 142 schools conduct integrated courses and Part 141 schools conduct non-integrated courses.

The practical flight standards are prescribed in Schedule 2 of the MOS.

## Can I get my CPL(H) using the CAR Part 5 requirements?

Yes. The transition rules allow applicants for a CPL(H) to gain their licence and rating if they meet the flight training, flight test and aeronautical experience requirements specified in the old regulations (refer to CAR Part 5 paragraphs 5.102 (1) (d), (e) and (f)).

Flying schools can continue to deliver CPL flying training according to the old regulations after 1 September 2014 – this does not have to include instrument flying.

This only applies to applications made before 1 September 2018.





## When does instrument flying become mandatory for the helicopter CPL?

Flying schools can continue to deliver CPL flying training according to the old regulations after 1 September 2014 – this does not have to include instrument flying.

The current regulations require all courses to include instrument flying from 1 September 2018. However, consideration is being given to the implementation of instrument flight training as part of the Part 61 post implementation review project.

If you obtain your licence without doing the instrument flying, it will include a note that your licence doesn't meet the international standard for a CPL. You can complete the instrument flying later.

## How much flying experience do I need to get my CPL?

The following table summarises the flying experience you need to have to obtain a CPL with an aeroplane, helicopter or gyroplane rating.

Note: The table does not include the experience standards which are allowed under CAR Part 5 until August 2018.

Experience	Minimum hours				
	Category rating integrated courses		Category rating non-integrated courses		
	Aeroplane	Helicopter	Aeroplane	Helicopter	Gyroplane
Aeronautical experience	150 *	100 **	200 *	150 **	150 *
Flight time as pilot	140 <sup>A</sup>	90 <sup>H</sup>	190 <sup>@</sup>	140 <sup>@</sup> (including at least 70 <sup>H</sup> )	75 <sup>G</sup>
Dual flight time	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20 <sup>G</sup>
Pilot in command flight time	70 <sup>A</sup>	35 <sup>H</sup>	100 <sup>A</sup>	35 <sup>H</sup>	35 <sup>G</sup>
Pilot in command cross-country	20 <sup>A#</sup>	10 <sup>H+</sup>	20 <sup>A#</sup>	10 <sup>H+</sup>	20 <sup>X+</sup>
Dual instrument time	10 <sup>^</sup>	10 <sup>^</sup>	10 <sup>^</sup>	10 <sup>^</sup>	10 <sup>^</sup>
Dual instrument flight time	5 <sup>A</sup>	5 <sup>H</sup>	5 <sup>A</sup>	5 <sup>H</sup>	n/a

\* means up to 10 hours of the minimum aeronautical experience can be in an approved flight simulation training device.

\*\* means up to 10 hours of the minimum aeronautical experience can be in a flight simulation training device or as tethered flight time. However, no more than five hours may be as tethered flight time.

@ means the flight time can be in an aircraft of any category.

'A' means flight time must be in registered or recognised aeroplanes.

'H' means flight time must be in registered or recognised helicopters.

'G' means flight time must be in registered or recognised gyroplanes.

'X' means flight time must be in powered aircraft and a minimum of 10 hours must be in gyroplanes.

# means the flight time must include a flight of at least 300 nautical miles during which a full-stop landing is made at each of two aerodromes not within the flight training area for the aerodrome from which the flight began..

+ means the flight time must include a flight of at least 150 nautical miles during which a landing is made at each of two landing areas other than the one where the flight began.

^ means instrument time can be completed in a flight simulation training device or aircraft.



## What are the medical requirements for a CPL?

You need to have a Class 1 medical certificate to sit the CPL flight test, and whenever you are exercising the privileges of your CPL. Class 1 medical certificates are issued by CASA.

If you are exercising PPL privileges, you only need a Class 2 medical certificate. And if you are exercising RPL privileges, you only need a recreational aviation medical practitioner's certificate (RAMPC); however, limitations apply.

You need to carry your medical certificate with you whenever you are flying.

Refer to CASA's *Medical requirements for flight crew* information sheet for more details.

## How do I maintain the privileges of my CPL?

To keep flying you need to have a current aircraft rating. Under Part 61, if you are flying aircraft covered by a class rating, you need to have done a flight review for that class rating within the previous 24 months.



If you have a current multi-engine aeroplane class rating flight review, you can operate single-engine aeroplanes.

An exemption came into force on 1 July 2016 which provides an alternative to the aircraft rating flight review. Instead of needing a flight review for each aircraft rating, pilots only need to hold a valid flight review in an aircraft of the same category that was completed in the previous 24 months. If you want to fly a multi-engine aircraft, the flight review needs to have been done in a multi-engine aircraft of the same category.

If you are carrying passengers, you also need to meet the recent experience requirements of three take-offs and landings within the previous 90 days.

As a commercial pilot you can be subject to operator proficiency checks as well.

For more details refer to the following CASA information sheets: *Aircraft ratings*, *Aircraft class ratings*, *Aircraft type ratings*, *Flight reviews* and *Proficiency checks*.

## Want to know more?

Visit [www.casa.gov.au/licensingregs](http://www.casa.gov.au/licensingregs)

### The new rules for commercial pilot licences are contained in Part 61 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations:

- › **Subpart 61.E** – general limitations
- › **Regulation 61.570** – privileges of commercial pilot licences
- › **Regulation 61.575** – limitations on exercising privileges – multi-crew operations
- › **Regulation 61.580** – requirements for grant of commercial pilot licences - general
- › **Division 61.1.2** – aeronautical experience requirements (pilots who have completed an integrated training course)
- › **Division 61.1.3** – aeronautical experience requirements (pilots who have not completed an integrated training course).