



Advisory Circular

ABRIDGED

Subject: Certification: Pilots and Flight and
Ground Instructors

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This advisory circular (AC) provides guidance for pilots, flight instructors, ground instructors, and examiners on the certification standards, knowledge test procedures, and other requirements in Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61. This revision provides guidance for those persons seeking sport pilot certification.

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*From the **Library** at:
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This information, taken from FAA Advisory Circular 61-65E, is primarily intended for flight instructors. However, Sport Pilot candidates will find important facts here regarding their training and certification.

9. LIGHT-SPORT AIRCRAFT WITH A SINGLE PILOT STATION.

a. In accordance with section 61.45(f), a practical test may be conducted in a light-sport aircraft that has a single pilot station. The FAA believes that with certain limitations, it is appropriate to allow the practical test, at the sport pilot certificate level only, to be conducted from the ground by a designated pilot examiner (DPE) or an aviation safety inspector (ASI). The examiner or ASI must agree to conduct the practical test in a single-seat aircraft and must ensure that the practical test is conducted in accordance with the sport pilot PTS for single-seat aircraft. Knowledge of all tasks applicable to the category/class of aircraft will be evaluated orally. Single-seat sport pilots must demonstrate competency in those specific tasks identified in the PTS and any other tasks selected by the examiner. The examiner must be in a position to observe the operation of the aircraft and evaluate the proficiency of the applicant from the ground.

b. The limitation “No passenger carriage and flight in a single-pilot station aircraft only” will be placed on the person’s pilot certificate, which limits a pilot to operations in a single-seat light-sport aircraft, and no passenger carriage will be authorized. Only a DPE or an ASI is authorized to remove this limitation. This can be accomplished when the sport pilot takes a practical test in a two-place light-sport aircraft and conducts the additional tasks identified in the PTS. This practical test may be conducted in the same or additional category of aircraft.

c. Upon successful completion of the practical test, the limitation will be removed and the sport pilot is authorized to act as pilot-in-command (PIC) in all categories of light-sport aircraft for which he or she has a make and model endorsement within a set of aircraft to operate. The

limitation can also be removed if the sport pilot completes the certification requirements in an aircraft with a minimum of two places, for a higher certificate or rating.

d. A sport pilot who is issued a certificate with a single-seat limitation must complete a flight review, as required by section 61.56. If the flight review is conducted in an aircraft, it must be in an aircraft with a minimum of two pilot stations, in which the pilot is rated, and with an authorized instructor who is current and qualified to act as PIC.

e. An instructor may perform a proficiency check for an additional category or privilege in accordance with section 61.321 to be added to a sport pilot certificate or higher using a single-seat light-sport aircraft, provided the instructor is also a DPE or an ASI.

f. The instructor or ASI must agree to conduct the practical test in a single-seat light-sport aircraft and must ensure that the proficiency check is conducted in accordance with the sport pilot PTS for single-seat aircraft. Knowledge of all tasks applicable to the category or class of aircraft will be evaluated orally. Those pilots seeking sport pilot privileges in a single-seat light-sport aircraft must demonstrate competency in those specific tasks identified in the PTS and any other tasks selected by the instructor.

g. The instructor or ASI must have radio contact and be in a position to observe the operation of the light-sport aircraft and evaluate the proficiency of the applicant from the ground.

h. On successful completion of proficiency check, the instructor or ASI will issue an endorsement with the following limitation: "No passenger carriage and flight in a single-pilot station aircraft only (add category/class/make and model)" limiting the pilot's operations to a single-seat aircraft in this category, class, make, and model. The instructor must sign this endorsement with his or her CFI and examiner number.

i. This limitation can be removed by the pilot having successfully completed a proficiency check involving the additional tasks identified in the PTS in a two-pilot station light-sport aircraft for the specific category and class rating sought and in accordance with section 61.321. The proficiency check must be conducted in the same category and class of light-sport aircraft. Upon successful completion of the proficiency check, the pilot will be issued an endorsement for the light-sport aircraft privilege sought.

j. A recreational pilot or higher, when exercising sport pilot privileges, is required to have an endorsement for only the category and/or class of light-sport aircraft for which he/she is authorized to act as PIC. A sport pilot is required to have an endorsement for the category, class, make, and model within a set of aircraft (see section 61.1(b)(14) for the definition of "set of aircraft") in which he/she is authorized to act as PIC.

14. SPORT PILOT CERTIFICATION. Specific knowledge, flight proficiency, flight experience, and endorsement requirements for the sport pilot certificate are located in part 61, subpart J.

a. An applicant for a sport pilot certificate, except those meeting the requirements of section 61.329, must possess at least a student pilot certificate that is current and valid.

b. The flight instructor is given discretion in developing a training program to meet the requirements of section 61.309. The regulation spells out the specific minimum aeronautical experience requirements that must be met.

c. A sport pilot certificate is issued without a specific category or class listed. An endorsement is required for each category, class, make, and model of light-sport aircraft a sport pilot is qualified to fly.

d. Sport pilots will require an endorsement to fly at least one make and model of light-sport aircraft within the same set of aircraft. Once an endorsement is obtained for a specific make and model of light-sport aircraft, the sport pilot can fly any other make and model in the same set without any additional endorsements. The FAA has established a list of sets of light-sport aircraft, which is available online at http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/sport_pilot/media/aircraft_sets.pdf. (See section 61.1(b)(14) for the definition of “set of aircraft.”)

e. An appropriately authorized flight instructor must supervise the training and experience required in obtaining additional sport pilot privileges. Additional training requirements and endorsements are established for the following additional privileges:

(1) Category or class of light-sport aircraft (section 61.321).

(2) Make and model of light-sport aircraft (section 61.323).

(3) Operate a light-sport aircraft in Class B, C, or D airspace, at an airport located in Class B, C, or D airspace, or to, from, through, or on an airport having an operational control tower (section 61.325).

(4) Operate a light-sport aircraft that has a V_H greater than 87 knots (kts) calibrated airspeed (CAS) (section 61.327).

f. Any pilot exercising sport pilot privileges (and applicants for the certificate) must understand and comply with all sport pilot privileges and limitations, particularly the applicable operating limits and endorsement requirements in subpart J. Section 61.303 establishes which operating limits and endorsement requirements apply to the operation of a light-sport aircraft, depending on the type of certificate or rating a pilot holds and the medical eligibility requirements the pilot meets. For example, a pilot holds a recreational pilot certificate, but not a medical certificate, and wishes to exercise sport pilot privileges. The pilot must comply with cross-country requirements in section 61.101(c), even if the flight does not exceed 50 nm from the departure airport (reference section 61.303). The pilot must also comply with the additional training requirements and endorsements established in paragraph 14c. See also paragraph 13.

g. Each pilot exercising sport pilot privileges must carry his or her logbook and other evidence of the required authorized instructor endorsements on all flights.