



# CHAPTER 16

## RECOGNITION OF OVERSEAS AUTHORISATIONS, LICENCES AND PROFICIENCY CHECKS



## 16.1 Overview

This chapter details the specific requirements for recognising foreign flight crew licences, type ratings, operational ratings and endorsements.

Before commencing this process, you must obtain an aviation reference number (ARN). See section 1.19 of this guide for details of how to obtain your ARN.

There are a few ways to convert your overseas pilot licence to an Australian licence.

If you have an overseas licence and:

- › plan to fly in Australia for longer than 12 months; you can apply to convert your foreign licence to an Australian licence (see section 16.2 of this guide). This gives you the full privileges of the applicable licence, rating or endorsement.
- › are only here for short-term aviation work: you can apply for a Certificate of Validation (CoV) that allows you to fly Australian-registered aircraft (see section 16.3 of this guide). The CoV has the effect of an Australian flight crew licence, aircraft category rating and any other rating, with the proviso that the privileges transferred to the CoV do not exceed your foreign qualifications.
- › it was issued by New Zealand: you may be able to simply verify your NZ licence or qualification under special rules (see chapter 17 of this guide).

Under the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR), no person may act as flight crew of an Australian registered aircraft unless they hold an appropriate civil aviation authorisation issued under the CASR. The authorisation may be called a licence, certificate, or rating.

Overseas student pilots intending to fly with an instructor at all times do not need to hold a CoV or any form of Australian flight crew licence.

CASA does not recognise the qualifications of overseas military flight crew. Overseas military pilots must obtain a civilian flight crew licence in their own country (or any other ICAO country) before applying for an Australian flight crew licence.

All documents sent to CASA must be in English or be accompanied by an English translation. If you are overseas, the Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate can help you find a translator and if in Australia, contact the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI).

## 16.2 Obtaining an Australian licence, rating or endorsement based on overseas qualifications

### Overview (FCLM 12)

CASA will not issue a flight crew licence to an applicant unless the relevant requirements of regulation 6.57 of the *Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005* are met.



Regulation 6.57 refers to providing suitable evidence of your identity which is a category A document (for example, an Australian birth certificate or notice of Australian citizenship) and either:

- › a category B document that provides photographic proof of your identity (for example, an Australian driver's licence or passport [Australian or foreign])
- › two category C documents (for example, a Medicare card or private health membership card).

If you are an overseas student pilot intending to fly with an instructor at all times, you do not need to hold a CoV or any form of Australian flight crew licence.



## Recognition requirements (61.275 and FCLM 12)

If you hold a foreign flight crew licence, you may obtain an Australian flight crew licence with a specific category rating for an aircraft e.g., aeroplane.

Your foreign licence and ratings must be equivalent to the Australian licence with the same aircraft category rating.

To have your foreign licence recognised you must:

- › be at least the minimum age required to obtain the Australian licence you are applying for
- › have a valid authorisation from your country's aviation authority to operate an aircraft radio
- › meet the ICAO level 4, 5, or 6 standards for aviation English language proficiency, or have a satisfactory current assessment of your aviation English language proficiency
- › meet the requirements of table 54 for specific licences.

Table 54: Overseas recognition requirements

What you wish to obtain	Requirements
Commercial pilot licence (CPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› written certification stating you are competent in each unit mentioned in Schedule 3 of the MOS for Australian licensing. This written certification must be given by the head of operations of a Part 141 or Part 142 operator authorised to conduct flight training for the Australian licence or rating or a person named in its operations manual (or exposition)</li> <li>› passed the appropriate flight test</li> </ul>
Air transport pilot licence (ATPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› you must pass both the flight test and the overseas conversion aeronautical knowledge examinations mentioned in the MOS for the Australian licence and aircraft category rating</li> </ul>
Multi-crew pilot licence (MPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› you must pass both the flight test and the overseas conversion aeronautical knowledge examinations mentioned in the MOS for the Australian licence and aircraft category rating</li> </ul>
Aeroplane class rating or pilot type rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› you must have, or have held, an overseas rating</li> <li>› CASA must be satisfied the overseas rating is at least equivalent to the Australian rating</li> </ul>
Operational rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› you must have, or have held, an overseas rating</li> <li>› CASA must be satisfied the overseas rating is at least equivalent to the Australian rating</li> <li>› written certification that you are competent in each unit of competency mentioned in the MOS for the Australian rating. This must be given by the head of operations of a Part 141 or Part 142 operator authorised to conduct flight training for the Australian rating or a person named in its operations manual (or exposition)</li> <li>› passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the Australian rating</li> <li>› satisfied CASA you have the aeronautical experience required for the Australian rating</li> <li>› passed the flight test mentioned in the MOS for the rating</li> </ul>
Flight crew endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› you must have, or have held, an overseas endorsement</li> <li>› satisfied CASA that the overseas endorsement is at least equivalent to the Australian endorsement</li> <li>› passed a flight test (if required for the grant of the endorsement in Australia)</li> </ul>

**Note:** Instrument number CASA EX88/23 Overseas training and assessment, and instrument proficiency check exemption 2023, applies if you are an applicant for a type rating and do not meet the requirements for the grant of a pilot type rating under regulation 61.815 or regulation 61.820. You may still be granted the pilot type rating if you can demonstrate to CASA you have completed training conducted by an authorised provider, been assessed by that training provider and the training meets the standards applicable in the MOS. As an applicant you must refer to the legislative instrument to determine if this exemption applies to your situation.

If you are applying for the recognition of your CPL, MPL or ATPL, CASA will issue you a letter stating what will be recognised from your foreign qualifications and any other requirements (if applicable) you need to meet prior to the issue of the licence. Letters from CASA detailing these requirements expire after 12 months.



CASA does not recognise copilot aircraft type ratings under Part 61. This includes, but is not limited to:

- > second-in-command
- > first officer
- > P2 on a foreign licence or verification.

## Application process

You will need to complete Form 61-4a – Flight crew licence application on basis of overseas civil qualifications (Part A) form.

## Conversion examination details

For a flight crew licence other than a PPL(A), you will be required to also pass the conversion exam.

For a commercial pilot licence (CPL) (aeroplane), you must hold a valid foreign equivalent to the Australian CPL(A) or ATPL(A) licence before you submit a flight crew licence application form. You then need to pass both the CPL human factors exam (CHUF) and CPL overseas conversion (aeroplane) exam (COSA) within one 'window'. The window is 2 years.



To get a theory credit for a particular licence, you must pass all the subject-parts in a certain amount of time. CASA refers to this amount of time as a window.

For an air transport pilot licence (ATPL) (aeroplane) you must pass both the ATPL human factors exam (AHUF) and ATPL overseas conversion (aeroplane) exam (AOSA) within one 'window'. The window is 2 years. You must also pass the instrument rating exam (IREX).

## Verification of your foreign licence (202.278 and FCLM 12.1.6)

CASA must verify (with the issuing authority for the licence) that you are authorised to exercise the privileges of your foreign licence. This verification requirement includes any rating or endorsement attached to your licence.

**Note:** Verification reports are valid for 6 months from the date they were issued.



The process of verification can take a number of weeks.

## Granting a pilot type rating based on overseas training and assessment (FCLM 12.1.7)

CASA will grant you (the holder of an Australian flight crew licence) an equivalent aircraft type rating once you have provided the evidence that satisfies CASA that your foreign aircraft type rating is at least equivalent to the Australian rating being requested.

You must also meet the following requirements for the grant of pilot type ratings on the basis of overseas training and assessment:

- › training must be conducted by a training provider that is authorised by the national aviation authority (NAA) of a recognised foreign State to conduct the training, for the grant of an overseas rating
- › you have been assessed, by a person who is authorised by the same NAA (that authorised the training provider) of the recognised foreign State to conduct the assessment, as meeting the flight test standard for the grant of the overseas rating
- › the training meets the standards specified in the MOS for training for the rating
- › the rating, for which the overseas training has been undertaken, is at least equivalent to the Australian rating.

**Note:** CASA no longer issues or recognises copilot aircraft type ratings under CASR Part 61. If CASA is not satisfied that the training is at a standard that allows you to fly that type in command, then the type rating will not be issued.

### Recognition of overseas training in flight simulators (FCLM 12.1.8)

Foreign flight simulators must be qualified by their relevant over-sighting national aviation authority (NAA). A list of NAAs that are currently recognised by CASA are outlined in AC 60-2. However, other foreign simulator providers that are not on the list may have alternative certificates of approval issued to them from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), European Aviation Safety Authority (EASA) or the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to undergo simulator training and testing; and who employ appropriately qualified training and testing officers also approved by those recognised NAAs.

If you are the holder of an Australian flight crew licence and can demonstrate, by presenting to CASA relevant certificates of approval then CASA may recognise the training received for assessment purposes for issue of an overseas aircraft type rating qualification on your Australian licence.

CASA must be satisfied that the training you received is equivalent to the Australian rating being requested. You must provide records (completed and signed) from an overseas training provider showing you have satisfactorily undergone training and assessment.

## 16.3 Obtaining a certificate of validation based on overseas qualifications

### Overview (61.290)

A certificate of validation (CoV) may be issued by CASA and permits the holder of an overseas authorisation to fly an Australian-registered aircraft for a specific operation and for a period of up to 12 months. The CoV has the effect of an Australian flight crew licence, aircraft category rating and any other rating, with the proviso that the privileges transferred to the CoV do not exceed your foreign qualifications.

Examples of specific operations may be private holiday flying, a commercial ferry operation or delivery of a type rating to Australian pilots.

If you are an overseas student pilot intending to fly with an instructor at all times, you do not need to hold a CoV or any form of Australian flight crew licence.

See also section 1.25 of this guide – Identity checks.

### Grant of certificates of validation (61.290 and FCLM 11.2 and 11.6)

You may apply to CASA for a certificate of validation (CoV) if you are the holder of an overseas flight crew licence.

You are not required to satisfy the Australian aeronautical experience requirements if you hold the equivalent or higher class of licence overseas.

CASA may determine you will need to pass an exam or flight test in the interests of the safety of air navigation prior to issuing you a CoV.

Overseas student pilots intending to fly with an instructor at all times do not need to hold a CoV or any form of Australian flight crew licence.

If you are the holder of a CPL, MPL or ATPL, CASA must verify (with the issuing authority for your licence) that you are authorised to exercise the privileges of your foreign licence. This verification requirement includes any rating or endorsement attached to your licence.

**Note:** Verification reports are valid for 6 months from the date they were issued.

When applying for a CoV you must provide:

- › a certified/notarised copy of your:
  - » licence
  - » medical or validity certificate
  - » logbook
- › completed Form 61-4COV (Certificate of Validation Application)
- › an official translation of the documentation if the documentation is in another language i.e. not English
- › evidence of a current aviation English language proficiency (AELP) 4 – 6 level (see section 2.4 of this guide)
- › aviation security status check (see section 1.18 of this guide)
- › payment of the application processing fee.

You also need to advise CASA when the CoV is required. If the start date is not known by CASA, the CoV will be issued as soon as it can be finalised. Otherwise, the CoV will be issued as close to the date requested as is possible. You must make clear what the purpose is for requiring a CoV so that it can be assessed and issued with the appropriate conditions and privileges.

Copies (certified/notarised) of your logbook pages are required to verify your experience has accrued on different aircraft types.

In order to be issued a CoV you must:

- › hold a valid and current overseas licence (ICAO) and medical certificate that is:
  - » issued by the same regulatory authority
  - » appropriate to the operations you wish to conduct in Australia,
- › be rated for the relevant category type or class of aircraft that is on your foreign licence
- › pass any examination or tests that CASA considers necessary in the interests of the safety of air navigation.

**Note:** In some cases no theory examination or flight test will be required and instead operational conditions will be placed on your CoV which must be adhered to.

Your CoV will specify the classes and/or aircraft type ratings you may operate in Australia. You may either fly those aircraft for which you already hold a rating or undergo training for the issue of a new type rating as the holder of a CoV.



Civil Aviation Safety Authority

## Types of certificates of validation (FCLM 11.5)

There are 2 types of CoV issued:

- › CoV for private day VFR operations which permits you to conduct private flying operations under the day VFR only whilst on holiday in Australia.
- › CoV for commercial operations. You may be required to pass an aeronautical knowledge exams, e.g., commercial air law exam and undertake a flight test.

**Note:** In lieu of a theory exam and/or a flight test, your CoV may be issued subject to operational conditions, for example:

- › the flight crew you are operating with must include an Australian CPL holder or an ATPL holder at all times you are operating
- › the CoV is restricted to flights with a particular operator.

These conditions will be considered and determined by CASA and will be reflected on the actual certificate.

## Application process

You need permission to fly an Australian-registered aircraft on a short-term basis using an overseas pilot licence.

To apply for a CoV based on foreign civil qualifications you will need to complete Form 61-4COV – Certificate of Validation (CoV) on the basis of foreign civil qualifications.

Your application should include:

- › why you intend to be in Australia
- › why you need a CoV
- › the type and registration mark of the aircraft you will fly
- › ferrying operation details (if applicable)
- › commercial operations details (if applicable)
- › details of Australian training you will undertake (if applicable).



It takes approximately 20 days to process your application and supporting documents.

## Privileges of certificates of validation (61.295 and FCLM 11.4)

As the holder of a CoV, you are authorised to conduct any activity the holder of the equivalent Australian licence, rating or endorsement is authorised to conduct, subject to the limitations detailed in this chapter.

Example privileges include:

- › fly an Australian-registered aircraft which is based overseas
- › ferry an Australian-registered aircraft overseas, between overseas countries or from overseas to Australia
- › conduct demonstration flights in an Australian-registered aircraft in Australia and overseas
- › conduct type rating training of Australian flight crew on Australian registered aircraft
- › undertake type rating training with an approved Part 142 training provider.

## Limitations on exercise of privileges of certificates of validation (61.300, 61.305 and 61.310 and FCLM 11.6.6)

As the holder of a CoV you must:

- › hold a current overseas medical certificate issued by the same contracting state as issued your licence and it is of at least of the class required to exercise the privileges of your licence
- › meet the recency and flight review requirements of the Australian licence and any rating to pilot an aircraft
- › carry on all flights:
  - » your CoV
  - » your overseas licence
  - » your overseas medical certificate
  - » a current photographic ID document that includes a passport type photograph and was issued within the last 10 years by an Australian government or government authority or foreign country, state or province and has not expired or been cancelled.



## Conduct of unauthorised activities (61.315)

You may only pilot an aircraft or flight simulator in an activity authorised under Part 61. You must comply with any limitations on the exercise of your CoV.

## Validity period (61.320)

Your CoV will be granted for one year and will have the expiry date stated on the certificate.

Your CoV is no longer valid when one of the following occurs (whichever occurs first):

- › you are no longer authorised to exercise the privileges of your overseas authorisation
- › your relevant overseas medical expires
- › the end date of your CoV.

## Renewing a certificate of validation (61.325 and FCLM 11.5.6)

A CoV may be renewed if you have either:

- › passed an aeronautical knowledge examination for the flight crew licence that relates to the certificate
- › CASA considers exceptional circumstances justify the renewal.

**Note:** Renewing a certificate of validation, includes granting you a new certificate of validation if you are the holder of:

- › a current certificate of validation
- › a certificate of validation issued for a period of less than 12 months and renewing for the remainder of a continuous 12-month period
- › a certificate of validation that has expired within the previous 3 months.

The renewed CoV must be the same overseas flight crew licence, rating or endorsement.

## Certificate of validation holders (61.340)

CASA may direct you, as the holder of a certificate of validation (CoV), to produce any, or all, of the following documents for inspection:

- › your certificate of validation
- › your overseas medical certificate
- › your overseas flight crew licence
- › a current document that includes a photograph showing your full face, head and shoulders issued within the previous 10 years by a government authority that is:
  - › the Commonwealth or a state or territory
  - › a foreign country, or a state or province of a foreign country.

It is an offence if you do not produce your documentation within the time specified by CASA.

## 16.4 Recognition of a partially completed instrument proficiency check

### (Instrument number CASA EX88/23 – Part 5 Overseas Training and Assessment, and Instrument Proficiency Check, Exemption 2023)

You are exempt from the requirements of completing an instrument proficiency check if you have completed an equivalent check overseas (detailed in this section) and hold:

- › a multi-crew pilot licence (MPL)
- › an air transport pilot licence (ATPL)
- › a pilot type rating (other than a single-engine turbojet aeroplane type)
- › a pilot type rating (single-engine turbojet aeroplane type)
- › an instrument rating.



Civil Aviation Safety Authority

The equivalent overseas instrument proficiency check must meet the following requirements:

- › you have had an instrument proficiency check for the relevant aeroplane or aeroplane type conducted by an authorised person
- › the instrument proficiency check meets the requirements of the authority's flight standards for the check
- › CASA or a flight examiner:
  - » assesses your knowledge standards to that in Appendix 1 of Schedule 6 of the MOS
  - » is satisfied you meet the standards of the MOS
  - » endorses your licence document that you have completed an instrument proficiency check for the relevant aeroplane or aeroplane type.

**Note:** An authorised person is a person who is authorised by the national aviation authority (NAA) of the recognised foreign state to conduct an instrument proficiency check (however named).

You should make reference to this legislative instrument to ensure you are able to comply with its requirements.

## 16.5 Converting a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) licence

CASA assess applications to convert from EASA licences on a case-by-case basis.

The medical certificate presented to CASA with your application must be from the same contracting state as your licence.