

CHAPTER 18 RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE QUALIFICATIONS



18.1 Overview

Australian Defence Force (ADF) flight crews must not fly civilian aircraft unless they have an appropriate civilian licence. If you are currently serving, or have served, in the ADF you may be able to obtain a flight crew licence, rating, or endorsement (excluding a flight examiner rating) if you hold, or have held, a flight crew qualification granted by the ADF equivalent to a CASA licence, rating or endorsement.

CASA only recognises the qualifications of graduates from the courses detailed in section 18.5. CASA does not recognise the qualifications of non-graduates.

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.

18.2 How to apply for a Part 61 qualification

(FCLM 14.14)

If you are a graduate of a recognised ADF course you may lodge your application for a civilian flight crew licence, using Form 61-1ADF Flight Crew Licence Application.

CASA will issue you a letter, valid for 12 months, stating your ADF qualifications that are recognised.

18.3 General requirements

(61.285, MOS Schedule 3 and FCLM 14)

Table 55 details the conversion requirements as a member, or former member, of the ADF.



Table 55: General conversion requirements

Civilian licence or rating type	Requirements	Notes
Private pilot licence (PPL)	no further training if you have graduated from a recognised ADF course provided you: meet the minimum age requirements have a current aviation English language proficiency assessment meet the aeronautical experience requirements for the licence	aeronautical experience requirements are those of a non-integrated course Note: Recognised courses are listed in section 18.5 of this guide
Commercial pilot licence (CPL)	no further training if you have graduated from a recognised ADF course provided you: meet the minimum age requirements have a current aviation English language proficiency assessment meet the aeronautical experience requirements for the licence	aeronautical experience requirements are those of a non-integrated course Note: Recognised courses are listed in section 18.5 of this guide
Air transport pilot licence (ATPL)	you must have: > passed all seven (7) ATPL subject exams > completed an approved course of training in multi-crew cooperation > meet the minimum aeronautical experience requirements as required by the CASRs > passed the flight test detailed in the MOS	Note: (Instrument number CASA EX32/24 Flight Crew Licensing and Other Matters (Miscellaneous Exemptions) Instrument 2024) If you are applying for an ATPL you do not have to complete an approved course of training in multi-crew cooperation (MCC) if: you have successfully completed an ADF training course for a multi-crew pilot operational conversion qualification for an aircraft that is normally operated by 2 pilots you have given CASA a copy of your relevant ADF qualification
Instrument rating	you must have passed: the aeronautical knowledge examination for the rating the flight test detailed in the MOS for the rating	
Flight instructor rating	you must have passed the flight test mentioned in the MOS for the rating	

18.4 Aeronautical experience recognition

(FCLM 14.4 and 14.15)

ADF applicants must meet the minimum aeronautical experience requirements specified in the CASRs noting that credit may be given for ADF flying hours recorded in your service logbook towards those experience requirements.

Note: ADF pilots record PIC hours as 'captain' and in command under supervision (ICUS) as 'first pilot'.

Only in the case of applying for an ATPL(A) may you consider ICUS hours in lieu of PIC hours.

When applying for a licence, you must provide evidence of your graduation in the form of both:

- > a course completion certificate with a certified/ notarised copy of the last page entry of your ADF logbook
- > any relevant evidence required for the recognition of an ADF qualification is to be completed by your commanding officer to confirm:
 - » your completion of the course
 - » the authenticity of your logbook entries
 - » the pilot the experience requirements.

18.5 Recognised ADF courses

(FCLM 14.12)

CASA only recognises the qualifications of graduates from the courses detailed in table 56. CASA does not recognise the qualifications of non-graduates.

Note: A non-graduate may have attended but did not graduate from a recognised ADF flying course or completed only the flight screening stage at BFTS/1FTS. These screening courses provide no qualification but may accrue up to 15 hours of dual flying time. Non-graduates must meet the same aeronautical experience as civilian pilots when seeking a civilian licence.

Table 56 shows those ADF qualifications that have a civilian equivalent.

In all cases you must provide a signed logbook entry and either:

- > a course completion certificate
- > record of attainment report (army only).



Table 56: Civil recognition of ADF qualifications (abbreviations can be found beneath the table)

ADF qualification	Civil recognition	Conditions and notes
graduate of: > BFTS/1FTS/IPC > army intermediate pilots course > 2FTS	 PPL(A) (if ADF aeronautical experience meets CASR minimum hours for non-integrated training) single engine aeroplane (SEA) class flight activity endorsements for aerobatics, spinning, formation flying MPPC (CT4B) GTE (PC9) RU (PC9) 	application required
graduate 2FTS and a graduate of operational conversion course (RAAF)	 CPL(A) (if ADF aeronautical experience meets CASR minimum hours for non-integrated training) single engine aeroplane (SEA) class flight activity endorsements for aerobatics, spinning, formation flying MPPC (CT4B) GTE (PC9) RU (PC9) NVFR (single engine aeroplane) low-level (aeroplane) 	application required
night	night VFR	 application required a PPL or higher and meet the minimum hours as required by regulation 61.980
formation	formation	application required
low flying	low-level rating	application required
aerobatics	aerobatic flight activity endorsement	application required
formation aerobatics	formation aerobatic flight activity endorsement	application required
QFI	flight instructor grades 2 or 3 and additional training endorsements under CASR 61.1235 (See chapter 11 of this guide.)	application requireda CPL or higherpass the flight test
ADF instrument rating	instrument rating	 application required a PPL or higher pass IREX theory examination pass the flight test

Table specific abbreviations:

- > BFTS/1FTS: Basic/First Flight Training School
- > IPC: Instrument Proficiency Check
- > MPPC: Manual Propeller Pitch Control
- > GTE: Gas Turbine Engine

- > RU: Retractable Undercarriage
- > 2FTS: Second Flight Training School
- > QFI: Qualified Flying Instructor



18.6 Medical certificates (FCLM 14.16)

You must have a medical certificate issued by CASA when you apply for your civilian licence. The class of medical certificate must be consistent with the class of licence to be held. (See section 2.7 of this guide.

18.7 Recording of civilian aeronautical experience

You may enter your civilian flying hours and qualifications in your ADF logbook, if permitted to do so by the ADF.



CASA does not require a separate logbook for civilian flying. However, you may elect to use different logbooks to avoid confusion between the way civilian and ADF flight time is logged.

18.8 Table of recognised aeroplanes

(FCLM 14.18)

The ADF awards pilots 'first pilot' (day only or day/night) for particular aircraft. These ratings may be recognised as equivalent to civilian ratings if they are an aircraft class rating or aircraft type rating.

Note: Type ratings must be listed in the latest edition of the Prescribed of aircraft and ratings CASR Part 61.

Any design features for recognised aircraft as appropriate will be awarded.

Table 57: Recognised aeroplanes

ADF endorsement	CASA aircraft rating	
Aeroplanes	Aircraft type or class	Design feature
B707	B707-300	> pressurisation system> retractable undercarriage> gas turbine engine
Caribou	DHC4	retractable undercarriageMPPC
CT4A	single-engine class	> MPPC
C47/Dakota	DC3	MPPCretractable undercarriagetail wheel undercarriage
C130/Hercules C130J/Super Hercules	L–382 not a recognised aircraft	retractable undercarriagepressurisation systemgas turbine engine
Falcon 900/DA90	Falcon 50/900	retractable undercarriagepressurisation systemgas turbine engine
HS748	HS748	retractable undercarriagepressurisation systemgas turbine engine
Nomad	Nomad	retractable undercarriagegas turbine engine
P3 Orion	L-188	retractable undercarriagepressurisation systemgas turbine engine
PC9	single engine class	retractable undercarriagegas turbine engine
KC350	B350/1900	retractable undercarriagepressurisation systemgas turbine engine
E7A Wedgetail or PA Poseidon	B737 300-900	 retractable undercarriage pressurisation system gas turbine engine

| **Note:** MPPC is a manual propeller pitch control.

