



CHAPTER 3

STUDENT PILOTS



3.1 Overview

This chapter describes administrative matters, medical requirements, recency and authorisations of a student pilot.

There are two situations where you will be referred to as a student pilot during your training:

- › if you do not hold a licence at all
- › if you hold a recreational pilot licence and wish to gain an additional licence, rating or endorsement.

As a student pilot you do not hold a licence. As a result, the general regulations governing privileges, limitations and requirements for licence holders do not apply to you.

However, under previous legislation, as a student pilot you did hold a licence (student pilot licence or SPL). This was removed with the introduction of Part 61 to align Australia with ICAO standards. ICAO standards do not recognise a student pilot licence.

See section 13.4 of this guide for details on how to transition your SPL to a recreational pilot licence (RPL). The RPL has replaced the student pilot licence and the general flying progress test (GFPT).

3.2 Identification requirements for student pilots

(61.117)

CASA may request that you provide evidence of your identity. You must comply with this request and also not fly an aircraft until CASA has given you written notice that you have complied with their request.

Note: Issue of a flight crew licence by CASA will constitute a notification in writing that you have complied. Details of what constitutes evidence of your identity are provided in paragraph 6.57 of the Aviation Transport Security Regulations and refers to 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).

3.3 Production of medical certificates etc. and identification when requested

(61.118)

CASA may direct you to produce, for their inspection:

- › your medical certificate, recreational aviation medical practitioner's certificate, Class 5 medical self-declaration or medical exemption to conduct a solo flight (as applicable)
- › an identification document that:
 - » has not expired or been cancelled
 - » contains a photo with your full face, head and shoulders
 - » was issued within the previous 10 years:
 - by a Commonwealth, state or territory government
 - a foreign country, or a state or province of a foreign country.

You must produce these documents before the earlier of:

- › your next solo flight
- › 7 days of receiving the CASA direction.

3.4 When you can fly as a student pilot

(61.112)

As a student pilot, you do not need a licence to fly as you are always under the supervision of a flight instructor and flight training school while learning.

As a student pilot, you are only authorised to fly an aircraft if one of the following applies:

- › the flight is for you to receive flight training, and the pilot in command (PIC) is a flight instructor
- › the flight is a flight test for you to gain a pilot licence, rating or endorsement
- › the flight is approved, supervised by a Part 141 or Part 142 certified flight instructor and is conducted in accordance with the flight instructor's approval and conducted under the VFR.

A flight is conducted under the supervision of a flight instructor if the instructor:

- › provides guidance (a briefing) to you about your flight
- › is either:
 - » on board the aircraft
 - » at the aerodrome from where your flight began
 - » flying within 15 nm of the aerodrome from where your flight began
- › can be contacted during the flight by radio or other electronic means for the duration of any solo flight.



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3.5 When you can fly as a student pilot with a recreational pilot licence (RPL)

(61.112)

If you hold an RPL, you may fly a recreational aircraft under the night VFR or non-recreational aircraft if the flight:

- › is for you to receive flight training and the PIC is a flight instructor
- › is a flight test for you to gain an additional pilot licence, rating or endorsement
- › the flight is approved, supervised by a Part 141 or Part 142 certified flight instructor and is conducted in accordance with the flight instructor's approval and conducted under the VFR.



A recreational aircraft is a single-engine aircraft that:

- › is certificated for single-pilot operation
- › has a maximum certificated take-off weight of less than 1,500 kg
- › is not rocket-powered or turbine powered.

A flight is conducted under the supervision of a flight instructor if the instructor:

- › provides guidance to you in relation to the flight
- › is either:
 - » on board the aircraft
 - » at the aerodrome from where your flight began
 - » flying within 15 nm of the aerodrome reference point for the aerodrome from where your flight began
- › can be contacted during the flight by radio or other electronic means.

3.6 Requirements for solo flight

(61.113)

As a student pilot, you may only fly solo if:

- > you have an ARN
- > you are at least 15 years old
- > no passengers are carried
- > the aircraft is registered.

Note: You may also fly solo if the flight is in another contracting state's airspace, provided you have permission of the contracting state.

3.7 Solo flight medical requirements

(61.114)

There are no medical requirements for a student to fly if receiving instruction from a qualified instructor. There are specific circumstances as a student pilot when you do require to hold a medical certificate or a medical exemptions and these are detailed below in this section.



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Non-recreational aircraft or recreational aircraft at night under the VFR

When flying solo in a non-recreational aircraft or a recreational aircraft at night under the VFR, you must hold and carry with you one of the following:

- > an applicable Class 1 or 2 medical certificate
- > an applicable medical exemption for the flight.



A recreational aircraft is a single-engine aircraft that:

- > is certificated for single-pilot operation
- > has a maximum certificated take-off weight of less than 1,500 kg
- > is not rocket-powered or turbine powered.

Note: If flying solo in a non-recreational aircraft you may do so if you hold, and carry with you, a Class 5 medical self-declaration provided the flight is a day operation only in aircraft with a MTOW less than 1,500 kg below 10,000 ft).

Recreational aircraft by day, without a recreational pilot licence

When flying solo in a recreational aircraft by day, without a recreational pilot licence, you must hold and carry with you either:

- > an applicable Class 1 or 2 medical certificate
- > an applicable medical exemption for the flight
- > a current recreational aviation medical practitioner's certificate (RAMPC)
- > a Class 5 medical self-declaration (in aircraft with a MTOW less than 2,000 kg below 10,000 ft).



A recreational aircraft is a single-engine aircraft that:

- > is certificated for single-pilot operation
- > has a maximum certificated take-off weight of less than 1,500 kg
- > is not rocket-powered or turbine powered.

For the recreational aviation medical certificate, you must:

- › comply with its stated limitations or conditions
- › have given CASA a copy and carry with you acknowledgement from CASA of its receipt
- › meet the modified Austroads medical standards.



'Current' in the context of a recreational aviation medical practitioner's certificate (RAMPC) means the shortest of the following:

- › for anyone less than 65 years old at the time of the solo flight, the period beginning on the day the certificate is signed by the medical practitioner and ending 24 months after that day
- › for anyone at least 65 years old at the time of the solo flight, the period beginning on the day the certificate is signed by the medical practitioner and ending 12 months after that day
- › if the certificate states a specific applicability period, the period beginning on the day the certificate is signed by the medical practitioner and ending at the end of the stated period.

Note: If you are the holder of a Class 5 medical self-declaration you must not fly solo if:

- › your self-declaration is no longer valid
- › you believe you have a medically significant condition that will impair your ability to fly solo
- › you are a disqualified person
- › you stopped being an eligible person and have not again successfully completed your Class 5 medical online assessment for medical fitness

You must also cease flying solo as soon as practicable (i.e., land early, divert or change altitude) if:

- › there are changes to your health (temporary or longer-term) that may impact your ability to fly solo or will have an impact on aviation safety
- › any issue arises that reduces your capacity to control the aircraft.

3.8 Solo flight recent experience requirements

(61.115)

You may only fly solo if you have successfully completed a dual flight check within the previous 30 days in the same type of aircraft as your solo flight.

You must not fly solo for more than a total of three hours (consecutively and cumulatively) without a dual check unless one of the following applies:

- › you are enrolled in an integrated training course
- › you are undergoing training conducted by a Part 141 operator for the grant of a Part 61 pilot licence with a rating for the category of aircraft and either:
 - » you hold an RPL
 - » the operator has certified (in writing) that you are competent to fly solo in the same category of aircraft and you have met the competency standards for the grant of an RPL in that category of aircraft.

3.9 Aircraft taxi authorisation

(61.116)

As a student pilot you are authorised to taxi an aircraft if you have the approval of a flight instructor.



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