



CHAPTER 8

AERIAL APPLICATION RATING AND ASSOCIATED ENDORSEMENTS



8.1 Overview

(61.1090 and 61.1140)

An aerial application rating is required to conduct aerial application flight operations (below 500 ft AGL). Aerial application involves applying substances from the aircraft to the ground, including chemical spraying, fertilising, seeding, and bushfire firefighting.

An aerial application rating is category-specific and must include either a day aerial application endorsement or a firefighting endorsement.

Water bombing and dropping of retardant on fires requires a firefighting endorsement and an aerial application rating. If you do not engage in agricultural spraying operations, you can obtain a qualification specific to aerial firefighting operations.

See section 1.19 of this guide for a diagram depicting the aerial application rating and associated endorsements.

As the holder of an aerial application rating you are required to meet recency requirements and have a valid proficiency check (that is valid for 12 months) before you can conduct any aerial application operation.

Several legislative instruments address matters relating to aerial application ratings. These instruments have been included in this chapter where applicable.

Note: (CASR 137.010) an aerial application operation (or application operation) means:

- › a flight carried out by an aeroplane to apply application material
- › a flight by an aeroplane for, or partly for, one or more of the following:
 - » inspection of a work area
 - » pilot training or checking relating to a flight to apply application material
 - » training of a crew member other than the pilot
 - » travel from a landing area to a work area and back
 - » the carriage of a passenger specified in regulation 137.135 for a purpose set out in that regulation
- › preparation for any activities mentioned above.

8.2 Requirements for the grant of an aerial application rating

(61.1115)

To obtain an aerial application rating, you must:

- › hold a CPL or ATPL (or overseas equivalent)
- › meet the requirements for the grant of at least one endorsement mentioned in table 30 (see section 8.3 of this guide)
- › have passed the flight test mentioned in Schedule 3 of the MOS for the aerial application rating (this test must be conducted in an aircraft).

8.3 Aerial application endorsement requirements

(61.1120 and 61.1140)

An aerial application rating is category-specific and must include either a day aerial application endorsement or a firefighting endorsement.

To be granted the endorsement you must:

- › have completed the flight training for the endorsement
- › have met the aeronautical experience requirements in table 30
- › have passed the flight test detailed in the MOS
- › for the aerial application endorsement and firefighting endorsement also have:
 - » met the requirements for the granting of a low-level endorsement
 - » passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the endorsement.

The training for the day aerial application endorsement requires:

- › training in low-level flight (leading to the grant of a low-level rating)
- › training in aerial application operations and solo flight while under training
- › an aeronautical knowledge course and examination, covering topics such as planning and risk control, operational techniques and human factors (Schedule 3 of MOS).

The training for a firefighting endorsement requires training in low-level flight (leading to the grant of a low-level rating) and specific training in firefighting operations.

Additionally, for the firefighting endorsement, an aeronautical knowledge training course

followed by an oral and written assessment is to be prepared by the training provider. There are 2 separate courses and assessments specified.

As the holder of an aerial application rating, you may conduct activities detailed in table 30 if you hold the required endorsement(s).

Table 30: Aerial application endorsement requirements

Activity	Endorsement	Requirements
aerial application operations (other than firefighting) below 500 ft AGL by day	aeroplane aerial application endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › aeroplane category rating › at least 200 hours of flight time as pilot of an aeroplane › at least 5 hours of dual flight in an aeroplane while receiving training in low-level operations › at least 25 hours of dual flight in an aeroplane while receiving training in aerial application operations › at least 5 hours of solo flight in an aeroplane while receiving training in aerial application operations
firefighting operations below 500 ft pilot an aeroplane conducting low-level operations	aeroplane firefighting endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › aeroplane category rating › at least 200 hours of flight time as pilot of an aeroplane › at least 5 hours of dual flight in an aeroplane while receiving training in low-level operations › at least 5 hours of dual flight in an aeroplane while receiving training in firefighting operations
aerial application operations below 500 ft under the night VFR pilot an aircraft under the VFR at night during a night circuit pilot an aircraft under the VFR at night between the aerodrome from where the flight begins or ends and are for the aerial application operation under the VFR at night	night aeroplane aerial application endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › aeroplane aerial application endorsement › at least 750 hours of flight time as pilot in command of an aeroplane conducting aerial application operations below 500 ft AGL › at least 3 hours of instrument flight time › at least 2 hours of solo night circuits › at least 2 hours of dual flight while receiving training in night aerial application operations › at least 3 hours of solo flight while receiving training in night aerial application operations

8.4 Supervision requirements

(61.1130)

To exercise the privileges of your aerial application endorsement (day or night), you must have either:

- › conducted at least 110 hours of aerial application operations below 500 ft AGL
- › have conducted supervised operations including:
 - » direct supervision for the first 10 hours
 - » direct and indirect supervision for the next 100 hours including a further minimum of 10 hours of direct supervision.

The supervision requirement reflects the complexity and hazardous nature of these operations.

The direct and indirect supervision must be conducted by one of the following:

- › the head of flying operations for the operator
- › a flight examiner who holds an aerial application rating flight test endorsement
- › a person approved to supervise operations under 61.040 (approvals by CASA for Part 61).

Note:

Direct supervision of a pilot conducting a flight means doing the following:

- › performing the tasks involved in indirect supervision of the pilot
- › being present and able to monitor and assess the safety of the flight and communicate directly with the pilot
- › selecting and planning the area where the flight is to be conducted
- › authorising the pilot to conduct the flight
- › providing direction to ensure the safety of the flight.

Indirect supervision of a pilot conducting a flight means doing the following:

- › conducting frequent surveillance of the performance of the pilot
- › periodically reviewing the performance of the pilot in the planning and conduct of the flight
- › providing feedback on the performance of the pilot

- › knowing the pilot's area of operations
- › acting as a mentor to the pilot.

8.5 Limitations of an aerial application rating

(61.1100)

As the holder of an aerial application rating, you must:

- › hold the appropriate endorsement listed in table 30 (see section 8.3 of this guide)
- › hold a valid proficiency check detailed in section 8.7 of this guide.

8.6 Recency requirements

(61.1105 and 61.1135)

To exercise the privileges of the aerial application rating, you must have completed at least 50 hours of aerial application operations below 500 ft within the previous 12 months.

You have met this requirement if you have successfully completed either of the following within the previous 12 months:

- › an operator proficiency check in aerial application operations below 500 ft
- › an aerial application proficiency check.

As the holder of a night aerial application endorsement, you must, within the past 45 days, have completed one of the following:

- › a night aerial application operation below 500 ft AGL that includes a take-off and landing at night
- › completed a flight in an aircraft of the same type or approved simulated training device, including:
 - » a flight of at least 1 hour's duration that commenced no later than 20 minutes before night
 - » practise of the necessary manoeuvres involved in the operation in an unladen aircraft at night or in the simulated training device
 - » at least 3 take-offs and 3 landings at night.

8.7 Aerial application proficiency check validity and requirements

(61.1110)

Your aerial application proficiency check is valid until the end of the 12th month after the month in which you completed one of the following:

- › passed the flight test for the rating
- › passed the flight test for the aerial application endorsement provided the endorsement flight test was at least 6 months after your rating flight test
- › successfully completed an operator proficiency check that covers the rating's operations with a flight examiner who holds an aerial application flight test endorsement
- › successfully completed an aerial application proficiency check conducted:
 - » in an aircraft
 - » by CASA, a flight examiner or 61.040 approval holder and:
 - you are assessed as competent in aerial application operations below 500 ft as per Schedule 3 of the MOS
 - your licence document is endorsed stating you have completed the check on the date stated.

If you hold a valid aerial application proficiency check and successfully complete another within 3 months before it expires, the new check will be valid for 12 months from the expiration of the previous one. For example, if you successfully completed a proficiency check on 17 June 2024, then your aerial application proficiency check is valid from 17 June 2024 – 31 July 2025.

If you attempt, and do not successfully complete, an aerial application proficiency check, you no longer have a valid aerial application proficiency check.

Note: (Instrument number CASA EX32/24 Flight Crew Licensing and Other Matters (Miscellaneous Exemptions) Instrument 2024) If you are the holder of an aeroplane aerial application endorsement or an aeroplane firefighting endorsement, you may complete an operator proficiency check with the head of flying operations of an aerial application operator, instead of a flight examiner who holds an aerial application rating flight test endorsement.

8.8 Operators approved to conduct training for the issue of firefighting endorsements

(Instrument number CASA 59/21 – Part 2 Flight Training and Flight Tests (Miscellaneous) Approvals 2021)

An operator is permitted to conduct flight training for the grant of an aeroplane firefighting endorsement if for the 3 years or more immediately before 31 August 2021 the operator:

- › held an AOC authorising aerial application operations in an aeroplane
- › had an operations manual, containing procedures for aeroplane firefighting operations
- › had conducted annual aeroplane firefighting operations under the written authorisation of either the:
 - » National Aerial Firefighting Centre
 - » state or territory fire control authority.

The operator must conduct their operations according to the conditions of Part 2 of Instrument [CASA 59/21 – Flight Training and Flight Tests \(Miscellaneous\) Approvals 2021](#).

If you wish to undertake your firefighting endorsement with an operator detailed in this section you must:

- › hold a CPL with an aeroplane category rating
- › hold an aerial application rating endorsement
- › have 250 hours minimum experience conducting aerial application operations in aeroplanes.



Civil Aviation Safety Authority