

Student Pilot Endorsements

Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) section (§) 61.189 requires instructors to sign the logbook of each person they have given ground or flight training. Advisory Circular (AC) 61-65 contains suggested endorsements, and this appendix reprints several of the more commonly used endorsements. All of these examples contain the essential elements, but it is not necessary for endorsements to be worded exactly as those in the AC. For example, changes to regulatory requirements may affect the wording or the instructor may customize the endorsement for any special circumstances of the student.

Pre-solo aeronautical knowledge: 14 CFR § 61.87(b)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has satisfactorily completed the pre-solo knowledge exam of 14 CFR § 61.87(b) for the (make and model aircraft). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Pre-solo flight training at night: 14 CFR § 61.87(c) and (m)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required pre-solo training in a (make and model aircraft). I have determined that he/she has demonstrated the proficiency of 14 CFR § 61.87(m), and is proficient to make solo flights at night in a (make and model aircraft). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Solo flight (each additional 90-day period): 14 CFR § 61.87(n)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training to qualify for solo flying. I have determined he/she meets the applicable requirements of 14 CFR § 61.87(n), and is proficient to make solo flights in a (make and model aircraft). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Initial solo cross-country flight: 14 CFR § 61.93(c)(1)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required solo cross-country training. I find he/she has met the applicable requirements of 14 CFR § 61.93, and is proficient to make solo cross-country flights in a (make and model aircraft). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Solo cross-country flight: 14 CFR § 61.93(c)(2)

I have reviewed the cross-country planning of (First name, MI, Last name), I find the planning and preparation to be correct to make the solo flight from (location) to (destination) via (route of flight) with landings at (name the airports) in a (make and model aircraft) on (date). May list any appropriate conditions or limitations.

S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Solo flight in Class B airspace: 14 CFR § 61.95(a)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training of 14 CFR § 61.95(a). I have determined he/she is proficient to conduct solo flights in (name of Class B) airspace. May list any applicable conditions or limitations.

S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Solo flight to, from, or at an airport located in Class B airspace: 14 CFR §§ 61.95(b) and 91.131(b)(1)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training of 14 CFR § 61.95(b)(1). I have determined that he/she is proficient to conduct solo flight operations at (name of airport). May list any applicable conditions or limitations.

S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Private Pilot Endorsements

Aeronautical knowledge test: 14 CFR §§ 61.35(a)(1), 61.103(d), and 61.105

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training of 14 CFR § 61.105. I have determined he/she is prepared for the (name the knowledge test). S/S [date] JJ Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Flight proficiency/practical test: 14 CFR §§ 61.103(f), 61.107(b), and 61.109

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training of 14 CFR §§ 61.107 and 61.109. I determined he/she is prepared for the (name the practical test). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Flight Instructor Endorsements

Spin training: 14 CFR § 61.183(i)(1)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the required training of 14 CFR § 61.183(i). I have determined that he/she is competent and proficient on instructional skills for training stall awareness, spin entry, spins, and spin recovery procedures. S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Additional Endorsements

Completion of a flight review: 14 CFR § 61.56(a) and (c)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name), (pilot certificate) (certificate number) has satisfactorily completed a flight review of 14 CFR § 61.56(a) on (date). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Completion of an instrument proficiency check: 14 CFR § 61.57(d)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name), (pilot certificate) (certificate number) has satisfactorily completed the instrument proficiency check of 14 CFR § 61.57(d) in a (list make and model of aircraft) on (date). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Retesting after failure of a knowledge or practical test (pilot): 14 CFR § 61.49

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name) has received the additional (flight and/or ground) training as required by 14 CFR § 61.49. I have determined that he/she is prepared for the (name the knowledge/practical test). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Retesting after failure of a knowledge or oral and practical test (mechanic): 14 CFR § 65.19

I have given Mr./Ms. (First name, MI, Last name) additional instruction in each subject area shown to be deficient and consider the applicant competent to pass the test.

Last name _____	First name _____
Cert. No. _____	Type/Rating(s) _____
Signature _____	Date _____

Completion of a phase of an FAA-sponsored pilot proficiency award program (WINGS): 14 CFR § 61.56(e)

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name), (pilot certificate) (certificate number) has satisfactorily completed Phase No. ___ of a WINGS program on (date). S/S [date] J.J. Jones 987654321 CFI Exp. 12-31-10

Certificates, Ratings, and Endorsements

Certificates

The basic airman qualifications document that the FAA issues is called a “certificate.” The pilot certificate level depends upon the extent of training and testing required. The FAA separately issues instructor certificates. A pilot certificate (commercial or ATP) is required to exercise the privileges of some, but not all, instructor certificates.

Pilot Certificate Type
Student
Sport*
Recreational*
Private
Commercial
Airline Transport Pilot

* Does not meet ICAO requirements

Instructor Certificate Type	Pilot Certificate Required
Flight Instructor	Commercial or ATP
Ground Instructor	none

Ratings

Except for student and sport pilot certificates, all pilot and instructor certificates have associated ratings. A rating specifies what, and/or how, the pilot is qualified to fly. There are several kinds of ratings:

Rating	Examples
Aircraft category and class	“Airplane single-engine land” “airplane single and multi-engine land” “airplane single-engine sea”
Type rating (required for any aircraft over 12,500 lbs MGTOW or for any turbojet)	B737
Operating privilege (e.g., instrument rating)	“Instrument airplane”

There are many possible combinations of certificates and ratings for aircraft category and class. For example, you might have a commercial pilot certificate with an airplane single-engine land rating. If you train and test in a multi-engine airplane to the private pilot certificate level rather than the commercial level, you will still have a commercial pilot certificate with an airplane single-engine land rating, but it will note that you have a multi-engine land rating with private pilot privileges.

Endorsements

An endorsement attests to the completion of ground and/or flight training required for specific operating privileges, or for airman certification testing. Except for certain endorsements made in pen and ink on a student pilot certificate, the endorsements required by 14 CFR part 61 fall into several broad categories.

Student Pilots

Because a student pilot certificate has no aircraft category and class ratings, operating privileges and limitations for solo flight are conveyed exclusively through instructor endorsements. Endorsements in this category are usually limited not just to aircraft category and class, but also to a specific make and model. Student pilot endorsements can also specify weather limitations.

Sport pilots

Like a student pilot certificate, a sport pilot certificate is issued without aircraft category and class ratings. Logbook endorsements specify the category, class, make, and model of aircraft that the sport pilot is authorized to fly as pilot in command.

Testing for Certificate or Rating

To take a knowledge test or practical test for most pilot certificates and ratings, the applicant must have endorsements attesting to aeronautical knowledge and flight proficiency (including aeronautical experience and practical test preparation requires in 14 CFR 61.31(a)(6)). The flight instructor applicant endorsements for completing the fundamentals of instruction and spin training fall into this category as well.

Recurrent Training

To maintain the operating privileges conferred by a pilot certificate or instrument rating, the pilot must have an endorsement for satisfactory completion of required recurrent training (e.g., flight review or instrument proficiency check).

Aircraft Characteristics

The requirement for a type rating is limited to large (greater than 12,500 lbs MGTOW) and turbojet-power aircraft. However, certain small and piston-powered aircraft have characteristics that require additional training for safe operation. For example, 14 CFR 61.69 specifies training and experience required for towing a glider. Specific additional aircraft training requirements are outlined in 14 CFR 61.31, and instructor endorsements that attest to the satisfactory completion of this training are the mechanism used to confer the necessary operating privilege. Endorsements related to aircraft characteristics include those for complex, high performance, high altitude, tailwheel, and glider ground operations. In addition, 14 CFR 61.31(h) provides for “additional aircraft type-specific training” in cases where the FAA has determined that such training is required.