



## 5 Recreational Pilot Licence

### 5.1 General Overview

The Recreational Pilot Licence is the first licence qualification of the licence hierarchy in CASR Part 61. Despite being a licence qualification the privileges of the licence are very restrictive as to what aircraft a holder can fly and the type of operation a holder can do.

It is intended to provide privileges in accordance with its name. Those being to satisfy a purely recreational pilot who will in the majority of cases, operate from and back to the point of departure in VMC by day.

Holders are restricted to the single engine class for both aeroplane and helicopter categories with additional conditions placed on aircraft flown that are covered by the class.

**Note:** For the Helicopter Category applicants can be issued a Type Rating in some cases eg. R22.

An applicant for the grant of a recreational pilot licence (RPL) must be at least 16 and also must have met the following requirements:

- passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for a recreational pilot licence and the associated aircraft category rating; and
- completed flight training for a recreational pilot licence and the associated aircraft category rating; and
- passed the flight test mentioned in the Part 61 Manual of Standards for a recreational pilot licence and the associated aircraft category rating; and
- completed at least 25 hours of flight time as pilot of an aircraft of the category for which the associated aircraft category rating is sought, including:
  - at least 20 hours of dual flight; and
  - at least 5 hours of solo flight time

Regulation: CASR 61.475

**Note:** An applicant for a RPL who holds a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation that administers activities involving aircraft of a particular category and that certificate permits the holder to act as the pilot in command of an aircraft of that category may be granted a RPL. Before exercising the privileges of the RPL that holder must complete a flight review.

Regulation: CASR 61.480

The holder of a recreational pilot licence is authorised to pilot a single-engine aircraft as pilot in command or co-pilot if:

- the aircraft is certificated for single-pilot operation; and
- the aircraft has a maximum certificated take-off weight of not more than 1,500 kg; and
- the aircraft is not rocket-powered or turbine-powered; and



- the flight is conducted by day under the VFR; and is
- authorised to pilot an aircraft in an area that is:
- within a 25 nautical mile radius of the aerodrome from which the flight began; or
- a flight training area for the aerodrome; or
- along a direct route between the aerodrome and the flight training area

Regulation: CASR 61.460 & 470.

## 5.2 General Reference Tables for Issuance of Recreational Pilot Licence

<b>Age</b>	Applicant must be at least 16 years at the time flight test undertaken
<b>Medical Certificate</b>	<p>Minimum required is Recreational Aviation Medical Practitioners Certificate which must be valid at the time the flight test is undertaken and at time of issue.</p> <p><b>Note: If issuing a RPL to RAAUS Pilot Certificate holder they must have a valid medical at time the RPL Licence is issued.</b></p>
<b>English Language Proficiency</b>	<p>Must have at least a valid General English Language Proficiency at time of flight test and issuance of the licence by PAC.</p> <p><b>Note: If the Flight Test undertaken included a request for issue of a FLIGHT RADIO ENDORSEMENT then the applicant MUST have held at least a valid ICAO level 4 at the time of the flight test and issuance of the licence and endorsement by PAC.</b></p>
<b>Pre-Requisite Licence</b>	Not applicable but must have an ARN.
<b>Aeronautical Knowledge</b> <i>Refer Manual of Standards Schedule 4</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pass in examination conducted by the training organisation (Part 141 or 142)* which covers the following units of knowledge:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– BACK Basic Aeronautical Knowledge (All categories)</li><li>– RFRC RPL – Flight rules and air law (All categories)</li><li>– PHFC PPL – Human factors (All categories)</li><li>– BAKA Basic Aeronautical Knowledge (Aeroplane Category only)</li><li>– BAKH Basic Aeronautical Knowledge (Helicopter Category only)</li></ul></li><li>2. The training organisation must hold an approval under CASR 61.040 to conduct examinations and those examinations must be set in accordance with the Part 61 Manual of Standards*.</li></ol>



	Examination credits obtained before the introduction of Part 61 may be recognised as valid for the issuance of a RPL. For determination contact FCL exams supervisor. <a href="mailto:fcl.exams@casa.gov.au">fcl.exams@casa.gov.au</a>
<b>Issued by</b>	CASA – Permissions Application Centre (PAC)
<b>Who is authorised to conduct the flight test</b>	<p>FLIGHT EXAMINER holding a valid Flight Examiner Rating with a PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE FLIGHT TEST endorsement <u>for the category</u>.</p> <p>The Flight Examiner must have held a valid Class 1 Medical at the time the Flight Test was undertaken.</p>
<b>Flight Test Pre-requisites</b>	<p>The applicant must have been certified in writing by a person under Regulation CASR 61.235 (5) that the applicant has met the following requirements before undertaking the flight test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– is at least the minimum age to hold the licence; and</li><li>– has passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the licence; and</li><li>– has met the flight training requirements for the grant of the licence; and</li><li>– has met the aeronautical experience requirements for the licence; and</li><li>– meets the general English language proficiency requirements</li></ul>

Aircraft Category requirements for the Issuance of Recreational Pilot Licence:

All Categories	
<b>Aircraft Class</b>	<p>Single Engine Class only (note exception for helicopter category)</p> <p><b>Note: the aircraft used for the test must registered or recognised and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have a maximum certified take-off weight of 1,500kg or less; and</li><li>• not rocket or turbine powered; and</li><li>• is certified for single pilot operation.</li></ul>
<b>Approved Flight Simulation Training Device</b>	The flight test CANNOT be undertaken in a Flight Simulation Training Device
<b>Aeronautical Experience</b>	At least 25 hours of flight time as pilot of an aircraft of the relevant category which must include:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• at least 20 hours of dual flight; and</li><li>• at least 5 hours of flight time as pilot in command.</li></ul> <p><b>Note: Simulated flight time does not count towards any of the hours requirements</b></p>
<b>Flight Rules</b>	Test must be conducted under the Day VFR
<b>Documentation</b>	Application forms for the issue of the licence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aeroplane Category: <a href="#">Form 61-1RA</a></li><li>• Helicopter Category: <a href="#">Form 61-1RH</a></li><li>• Gyroplane Category: Reserved</li><li>• Powered Lift Category: Reserved</li><li>• Airship Category: Reserved</li></ul>

Requirements for the Issuance of a Recreational Pilot Licence Endorsement:

<b>Navigation</b>	An applicant for this endorsement MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the endorsement</li><li>• Have completed the flight training</li><li>• Have at least 5 hours of solo cross country time completed on the category for which the endorsement is requested</li></ul> <p><b>Note: the cross country flight time must include a flight of at least 100nm, which has a full stop landing made at each of 2 aerodromes or landing areas other than the aerodrome from which the flight departed.</b></p>
<b>Flight Radio (note regards different to FROL)</b>	An applicant for this endorsement MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the endorsement</li><li>• Have completed the flight training</li><li>• Hold at least a current ICAO Level 4 Aviation English Language Proficiency assessment</li></ul>
<b>Controlled Airspace</b>	An applicant for this endorsement MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the endorsement</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have completed the flight training</li><li>• Hold at least a current ICAO Level 4 Aviation English Language Proficiency assessment</li></ul>
<b>Controlled Aerodrome</b>	An applicant for this endorsement MUST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have passed the aeronautical knowledge examination for the endorsement</li><li>• Have completed the flight training</li><li>• Hold at least a current ICAO Level 4 Aviation English Language Proficiency assessment</li></ul>
<b>Documentation</b>	<a href="#">61-1RE</a> Recreational Pilot Licence Endorsements Application Form

### 5.3 Grant of Recreational Pilot Licence in recognition of a pilot certificates granted by certain organisations

A holder of a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation may be issued a Recreational Pilot Licence.

The pilot certificate holder is eligible to be issued the same Aircraft Category Rating on the RPL as the holder is permitted to fly on their pilot certificate.

The pilot certificate holder is taken to have passed the RPL aeronautical knowledge examination AND flight test for the associated aircraft category rating.

The applicant is also taken to have met the requirements for the grant of:

- the aircraft category rating for each category of aircraft in which the person is permitted by their pilot certificate to act as pilot in command on; and
- the aircraft class rating for each class of aircraft in which the person is permitted by their pilot certificate to act as pilot in command on; and
- the design feature endorsement for each design feature of an aircraft in which the applicant is permitted by their pilot certificate to act as pilot in command on.

**Note:** The holder of an aircraft class rating must successfully complete a flight review to be authorised to exercise the privileges of the class rating and is not taken to have met the flight review requirement on the basis of being granted a RPL on the basis of their pilot certificate.

### 5.4 Grant of Recreational Pilot Licence endorsements in recognition of other qualifications

An applicant for a recreational pilot licence endorsement is eligible to be granted the endorsement if the applicant holds a recreational pilot licence and another flight crew licence that authorises the exercise of the privileges of the endorsement.



An applicant for a controlled aerodrome endorsement is eligible to be granted the endorsement if the applicant holds a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation and the applicant holds an approval from the recreational aviation administration organisation to pilot an aircraft at a controlled aerodrome.

An applicant for a controlled airspace endorsement is eligible to be granted the endorsement if the applicant holds a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation and the applicant holds an approval from the recreational aviation administration organisation to pilot an aircraft in controlled airspace.

An applicant for a flight radio endorsement is eligible to be granted the endorsement if the applicant holds a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation and the applicant holds an approval from the recreational aviation administration organisation to operate an aircraft radio and has a current aviation English language proficiency assessment.

An applicant for a recreational navigation endorsement is eligible to be granted the endorsement if the applicant holds a pilot certificate granted by a recreational aviation administration organisation and the applicant holds a cross-country navigation approval from the recreational aviation administration organisation and the applicant has completed at least 5 hours of solo cross-country flight time.