



**Commercial Pilot Certificate**  
Aeronautical Experience  
Flight Proficiency

**Vonda Benson, CFII**  
**Take Flight Aviation, LLC**

**FAR AIM 61.129 Aeronautical experience.**

**(a) For an airplane single-engine rating.** Except as provided in [paragraph \(i\)](#) of this section, a [person](#) who applies for a commercial pilot certificate with an [airplane](#) category and single-engine class [rating](#) must log at least 250 hours of [flight time](#) as a pilot that consists of at least:

- (1)** 100 hours in powered [aircraft](#), of which 50 hours must be in airplanes.
- (2)** 100 hours of pilot-in-command [flight time](#), which includes at least -
  - (i)** 50 hours in airplanes; and
  - (ii)** 50 hours in cross-country flight of which at least 10 hours must be in airplanes.
- (3)** 20 hours of training on the areas of operation listed in [§ 61.127\(b\)\(1\)](#) of this part that includes at least -
  - (i)** Ten hours of [instrument training](#) using a view-limiting device including attitude [instrument](#) flying, partial panel skills, recovery from unusual flight attitudes, and intercepting and tracking navigational systems. Five hours of the 10 hours required on [instrument training](#) must be in a single engine [airplane](#);
  - (ii)** 10 hours of training in a [complex airplane](#), a turbine-powered [airplane](#), or a [technically advanced airplane \(TAA\)](#) that meets the requirements of [paragraph \(j\)](#) of this section, or any combination thereof. The [airplane](#) must be appropriate to land or sea for the [rating](#) sought;
  - (iii)** One 2-hour cross country flight in a single engine [airplane](#) in daytime conditions that consists of a total straight-line distance of more than 100 nautical miles from the original point of departure;
  - (iv)** One 2-hour cross country flight in a single engine [airplane](#) in nighttime conditions that consists of a total straight-line distance of more than 100 nautical miles from the original point of departure; and
  - (v)** Three hours in a single-engine [airplane](#) with an [authorized instructor](#) in preparation for the [practical test](#) within the preceding 2 calendar months from the month of the test.
- (4)** Ten hours of solo [flight time](#) in a single engine [airplane](#) or 10 hours of [flight time](#) performing the duties of [pilot in command](#) in a single engine [airplane](#) with an [authorized instructor](#) on board (either of which may be credited towards the [flight time](#) requirement under [paragraph \(a\)\(2\)](#) of this section), on the areas of operation listed under [§ 61.127\(b\)\(1\)](#) that include -
  - (i)** One cross-country flight of not less than 300 nautical miles total distance, with landings at a minimum of three points, one of which is a straight-line distance of at least 250 nautical miles from the original departure point. However, if this requirement is being met in Hawaii, the longest segment need only have a straight-line distance of at least 150 nautical miles; and
  - (ii)** 5 hours in [night VFR](#) conditions with 10 takeoffs and 10 landings (with each landing involving a flight in the traffic pattern) at an [airport](#) with an operating control tower.



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## **61.127 Flight proficiency.**

**(a) General.** A **person** who applies for a commercial pilot certificate must receive and log ground and **flight training** from an **authorized instructor** on the areas of operation of this section that apply to the **aircraft** category and class **rating** sought.

### **(b) Areas of operation.**

**(1)** For an **airplane** category **rating** with a single-engine class rating:

- (i)** Preflight preparation;
- (ii)** Preflight procedures;
- (iii)** **Airport** and seaplane base operations;
- (iv)** Takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds;
- (v)** Performance maneuvers;
- (vi)** Ground reference maneuvers;
- (vii)** Navigation;
- (viii)** Slow flight and stalls;
- (ix)** Emergency operations;
- (x)** High-altitude operations; and
- (xi)** Postflight procedures.