

Complex Endorsements



14 CFR 61.1(b)(3): Definition of “complex airplane”

Complex airplane means an airplane that has a retractable landing gear, flaps, and a controllable pitch propeller, including airplanes equipped with an engine control system consisting of a digital computer and associated accessories for controlling the engine and propeller, such as a full authority digital engine control; or, in the case of a seaplane, flaps and a controllable pitch propeller, including seaplanes equipped with an engine control system consisting of a digital computer and associated accessories for controlling the engine and propeller, such as a full authority digital engine control.

14 CFR 61.31(e): Additional training required for operating complex airplanes

1. Except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, no person may act as pilot in command of a complex airplane, unless the person has —
 - Received and logged ground and flight training from an authorized instructor in a complex airplane, or in a flight simulator or flight training device that is representative of a complex airplane, and has been found proficient in the operation and systems of the airplane; and
 - Received a one-time endorsement in the pilot’s logbook from an authorized instructor who certifies the person is proficient to operate a complex airplane.
2. The training and endorsement required by paragraph (e)(1) of this section is not required if the person has logged flight time as pilot in command of a complex airplane, or in a flight simulator or flight training device that is representative of a complex airplane prior to August 4, 1997.

Completing the Endorsement



There is no minimum flight or ground training time required by the FAA for a complex endorsement. Many people need 3 to 5 hours to become proficient. The page below list the rate for the endorsement.

\$1,000

- 3 hours of flight instruction
- 2 hours of ground training
- Emergency procedures including go-arounds
- Airport courtesy car
- Nearby Hotel

*Additional flight hours available for \$291.50

