

The Flight Review or BFR

Based in part from a presentation by William R. Benhoff, Safety Program Manager, Cleveland FSDO and the AOPA's Air Safety Foundation's Pilots Guide to the Flight Review

Introduction

- ✦ The Flight Review is intended to be an industry-managed, FAA-monitored currency program.
- ✦ It is not a test or a flight check
- ✦ It is an instructional program designed to assess a pilot's knowledge and skills

Regulation

61.56(c) states that no pilot may act as pilot in command of an aircraft unless, since the beginning of the 24th calendar month before the month in which that pilot acts as pilot in command, that person has:

✎ accomplished a flight review in an aircraft for which that pilot is rated by an appropriately rated instructor **AND**

Regulation

✎ a logbook endorsed by the person who gave the review certifying that the person has satisfactorily completed the review

Objective is to ensure that pilots have the opportunity to ride with a flight instructor of their own choice for an appraisal of their pilot proficiency and to seek assistance or guidance if any deficiency is identified.

Regulation

Other ways to comply:

- ✎ completed a pilot proficiency flight check conducted by the FAA, Check Airman, or a U.S. Armed Force, for a pilot certificate, rating, or operating privilege
- ✎ complete one or more phases of the Pilot Proficiency Award Program (WINGS)

Regulation

A flight review consists of a **MINIMUM** of 1 hour of flight instruction **AND** 1 hour of ground instruction, and must include:

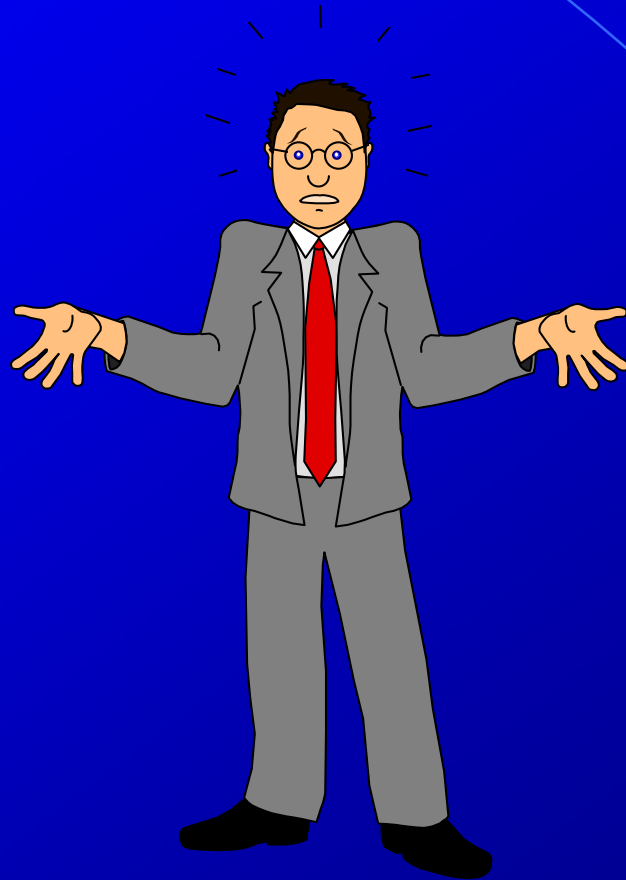
- ✎ a review of the current general operating and flight rules of Part 91
- ✎ a review of those maneuvers and procedures which, **at the discretion** of the person giving the review, are necessary for the pilot to demonstrate the safe exercise of the pilot certificate

Regulation

Exceptions:

- ✎ Glider pilots may substitute a minimum of 3 instructional flights, each including a 360-degree turn, in lieu of the 1 hour of flight instruction.
- ✎ You may accomplish the flight review requirements in combination with the recent flight experience requirements at the discretion of the instructor conducting the review.

What must be done in a Flight Review?



Before the Review

Before beginning the review, the instructor should interview the pilot to determine the nature of his flying and operating requirements including:

- ✎ Type of equipment most often flown
 - ⇒ LTA vs. Fixed Wing
 - ⇒ Complex of flight environment
 - ⇒ Possibly more than one category/class

Before The Review

R Nature of flight operations

⇒ Sport vs. Passenger

⇒ Class B airspace – airports

R Amount and currency of flight experience

⇒ Review logbook for total time and last flight

⇒ Type of flight experience

Before The Review

- ✎ Agreement on conduct of review
 - ⇒ Reach understanding on how review will be conducted
 - ⇒ Suggest reading materials for study prior to review
 - ⇒ What equipment is required for review
 - ⇒ Criteria for satisfactory completion of review

Before The Review

✪ Instructor Qualifications

⇒ Consider qualifications in a given make/model aircraft prior to review

✪ Must have category and class rating

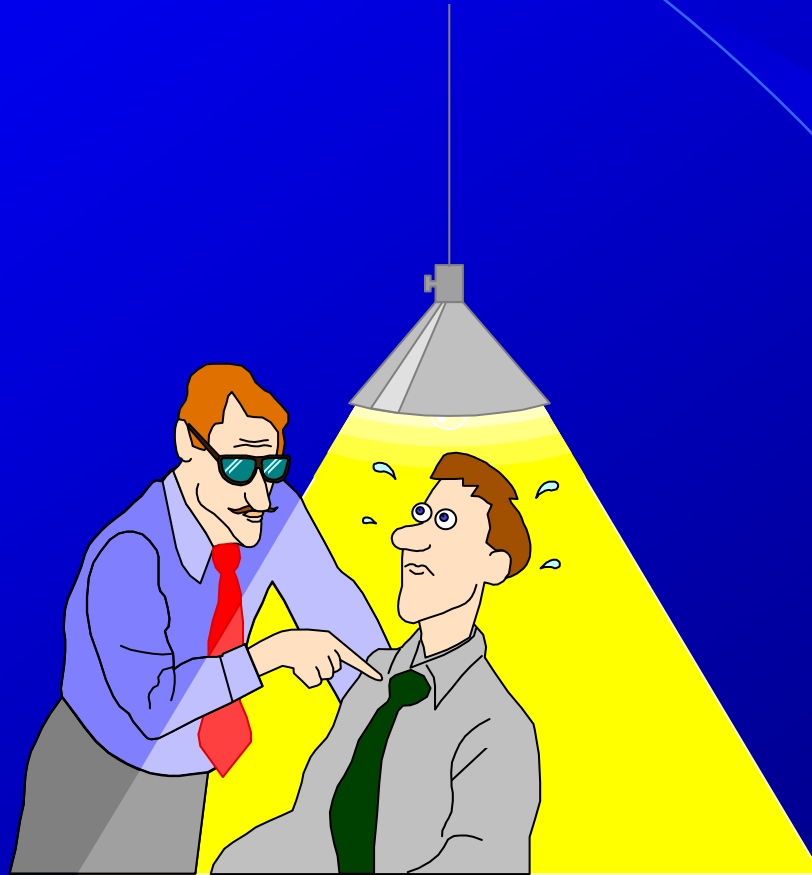
✪ Multi-engine review, CFI must hold Multi-engine on pilot and instructors certificates
(Ref: 61.195(b))

Planning The Review

The instructor should prepare a plan for completing the review. This should include:

- ✎ List of regulatory subjects to be covered
- ✎ Maneuvers / procedures to be accomplished
- ✎ Anticipated sequence in which the segments will occur
- ✎ Sample plan, instructor should retain as a record of scope and content of the review

What will be done during a flight review?



The Ground Review

- ✪ Tailored review of the General operating and Flight Rules of FAR Part 91, Subparts A & B
- ✪ Visual Flight Rules, Subpart B
- ✪ Equipment, Instrument, and Certification Requirements, Subpart C
- ✪ Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance and Alterations, Subpart E

The Ground Review

✪ Airman's Information Manual

✪ Aircraft Operating Handbook

⇒ Limitations

⇒ Airspeeds for Safe Operation

⇒ Systems Operation

⇒ Emergency Procedures

✪ Review of the Aircraft Logbooks and maintenance records

The Ground Review

- ✧ Weight and Balance Calculation
- ✧ Weather Reports and Forecast
- ✧ Completing a Flight Log
- ✧ Preflight Inspection Procedures

The In-flight Review

At least those maneuvers considered critical for safe flight:

- ✧ Takeoffs and Landings
- ✧ Emergency Procedures
- ✧ Navigation Procedures

The In-flight Review

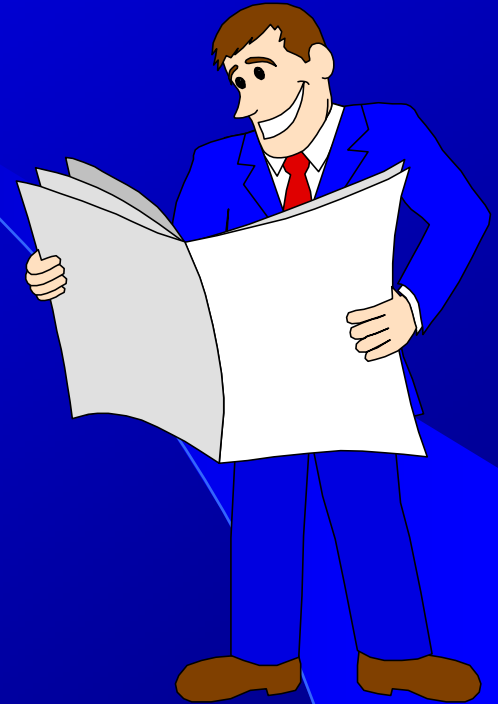
- ✦ Based upon in-flight assessment of skills, the instructor may:
- ✦ Add any maneuver from the Practical Test Standards (PTS) for certificate held
- ✦ Provide additional instruction on weak areas, based upon pre-review plan
 - ⇒ may defer to a follow-up flight
 - ⇒ satisfactory completion
- ✦ Sequence should duplicate a typical profile

After the Review

- ✧ Complete Flight Review Plan and Checklist
- ✧ Debrief pilot
- ✧ Provide an analysis of performance, including suggestions of improvement of weak areas

Satisfactory Review

- ✎ Logbook MUST be completed by instructor
- ✎ Sign off should be in accordance with the current issue of AC 61-65.



Unsatisfactory Review

- ✧ Instructor should not endorse logbook, but should sign dual
- ✧ Recommend more dual
- ✧ Pilot may continue to fly if within 24 months
- ✧ If pilot feels instructor was unfair, request review from another instructor



Pilots, I have questions, what are the answers?



Q & A – Pilot

1. Who must meet the flight review requirements?

✚ Anyone who intends to act as pilot in command and is not affected by the exemptions ... must complete a flight review.

Q & A – Pilot

2. What can take the place of a flight review?

- ✚ FAR Section 61.58 pilot proficiency check
- ✚ FAR Part 121, 135, 141 pilot proficiency check
- ✚ Military pilot proficiency check
- ✚ Other proficiency checks administered by the FAA
- ✚ Pilot examiner annual flight check
- ✚ Flight test for any certificate or rating
- ✚ Satisfactory completion of any phase of the FAA “Wings” program

Q & A – Pilot

3. Who is authorized to conduct flight reviews?

Any appropriately certificated instructor or other person designated by the FAA administrator. For LTA this means a Commercial Pilot.

Q & A – Pilot

4. Will a notice of an unsuccessful flight review be submitted to the FAA?

R No. The FAA is not notified of the outcome of your flight review.

R If the instructor conducting the flight review is unsatisfied with your performance, he or she will withhold the logbook endorsement until you can demonstrate proficient piloting abilities.

Q & A – Pilot

5. Why should you get a flight review?

- ✎ You are in violation of applicable FARs if you acted as pilot in command after the expiration date of your flight review.
- ✎ The purpose of the review is to ensure that you continue to update and expand your skills as a pilot.
- ✎ You fly with an instructor of your choice who will assist you in improving your piloting abilities and make sure you're up-to-date on current regulations, operating practices, and other subjects he or she deems appropriate.
- ✎ The goal is to make flying safer for everyone.

Q & A – Pilot

**6. My last flight review was conducted on 06-16-2006.
When will it expire?**

Flight reviews are valid for 24 calendar months. Your flight review is current through 06-30-2008.

Q & A – Pilot

7. My flight review is not current. Is my pilot certificate invalid?

R No. Your pilot certificate is valid until surrendered, suspended, or revoked.

R However, you may not act as pilot in command until you satisfactorily complete a flight review; however, you may act as second in command and as a safety pilot.

Q & A – Pilot

8. I do not intend to carry passengers. Can I fly solo without a current flight review?

No. You are acting as pilot in command during solo flight. Therefore, you need a current flight review.

Q & A – Pilot

9. If I do not satisfactorily complete a flight review, must I return to the same flight instructor to complete it?

R No. You may complete the flight review with a different instructor. However, using the same instructor may save time because that instructor should have already evaluated some areas as satisfactory.

Q & A – Pilot

10. Must I get a flight review in each category and class of aircraft for which I am rated?

No. The satisfactory completion of a flight review allows you to exercise the privilege of pilot in command in all categories and classes of aircraft on your pilot certificate. However, recognizing that flight characteristics of aircraft differ, many pilots elect to get flight reviews in each category and class held on their pilot certificate.

Q & A – Pilot

11. I hold a commercial pilot certificate. Must I demonstrate all the maneuvers contained in the Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards?

Not necessarily. You are required to demonstrate those maneuvers and procedures determined by the flight instructor as necessary to assure you can safely exercise the privileges of your certificate.

Q & A – Pilot

12. How will I demonstrate my knowledge of FAR 91?

Usually through an informal question-and-answer session with the instructor. However, in some cases, the instructor may provide a written questionnaire for you to complete.

Q & A – Pilot

13. How do I show satisfactory completion of a flight review?

Your logbook will be endorsed by the flight instructor who gave you the flight review.

The endorsement should read similar to the following:

I certify that (First name, MI, Last name), (type, e.g., private, commercial,) pilot certificate, (pilot certificate number), has satisfactorily completed a flight review in accordance with section 61.56(a) on (date). <signed your name> CHAB <certificate number>

Q & A – Pilot

14. To whom must I present my logbook to prove that I have had a flight review?

The FAA administrator or any person to whom he or she has delegated his or her authority, an authorized representative of the NTSB, or any state or local law enforcement officer. Additionally, you may be asked to show the evidence to a festival organizer or to anyone who wants to validate your currency.

Q & A – Pilots

15. How do I log the flight time from a flight review?

Because the regulation specifically states “1 hour of flight instruction,” it must be logged as dual instruction received. However, you may also log pilot-in command time for the portion of the flight during which you were the sole manipulator of the controls.

Instructors, I have questions,
what are the answers?



Q & A - Instructors

1. Who acts as pilot in command during a flight review?

- ✎ This question should be resolved before the flight so that both you and the pilot have a clear understanding of PIC responsibilities.
- ✎ You should inspect the pilot's logbook, pilot certificate, and medical certificate (if needed for other privileges) to ensure that he or she is qualified to act as pilot in command.
- ✎ If the pilot does not meet the pilot-in-command requirements, you must assume that role.
- ✎ While you are in the process of inspecting paperwork, don't forget to check the status of the aircraft. Is it airworthy?

Q & A - Instructors

2. What is the minimum amount of time for a flight review?

- ✎ The time required will vary with the individual pilot and flight instructor.
- ✎ Reviews must consist of at least one hour of ground and one hour of flight instruction.

Q & A - Instructors

3. What subjects are covered during the oral portion?

- ✍ The only subject specified by FAR 61.56 is FAR Part 91.
- ✍ It is recommended that you tailor the review of Part 91 to the needs of the pilot being reviewed.
- ✍ The objective is to ensure that the pilot can comply with regulatory requirements and operate safely in various types of airspace and under various weather conditions.
- ✍ The review of Part 91 is critical due to the increasing complexity of airspace and the need to ensure that all pilots are familiar with Class B, Class C, and all other types of airspace.
- ✍ The flight review may be the only time some pilots spend reviewing the regulations.

Q & A - Instructors

4. What are your responsibilities after the flight review is complete?

- ✎ Upon completion of the review, you should debrief the pilot and inform him or her whether the review was satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Regardless of this determination, you should provide the pilot with comprehensive analysis of his or her performance, including any weak areas.
- ✎ If the flight review was satisfactory, endorse the pilot's logbook accordingly.
- ✎ You should not endorse the pilot's logbook to reflect an unsatisfactory review.

Q & A - Instructors

5. As the instructor, how do you log the flight time?

You may log the entire flight as pilot-in-command time as provided by FAR Section 61.51(e)(3).

Q & A - Instructors

6. Must you keep a record of the flight reviews you give?

Although the FAR 61.189 does not require you to keep a record of flight reviews you give, it is highly recommended that you do so.

Q & A - Instructors

7. Must you go to the FAA FSDO for your flight review?

No. An appropriately certificated flight instructor or person designated by the FAA administrator may conduct your flight review.

Q & A - Instructors

8. May you endorse your logbook for the satisfactory completion of a flight review?

No. FAR 61.195(i) specifically prohibits flight instructors from making any self-endorsement for a certificate, rating, flight review, authorization, operating privilege, practical test, or knowledge test that is required by Part 61.

Additional Resources

As an instructor you may want to have your “student” complete one or more of the AOPA/ASF/Sporty’s Quiz’s ahead of time.



Flight Review

<http://www.aopa.org/asf/asfquiz/quizzes.cfm?SA=Quizzes&QuizId=Feature>



Class B Air Space

<http://www.aopa.org/asf/asfquiz/quizzes.cfm?SA=Quizzes&QuizId=89>



Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)

<http://www.aopa.org/asf/asfquiz/quizzes.cfm?SA=Quizzes&QuizId=79>



METARs: Beyond Translation

<http://www.aopa.org/asf/asfquiz/quizzes.cfm?SA=Quizzes&QuizId=95>

Questions?

