

# Aviation Instructor's Handbook (FAA-H-8083-9)

## Appendix D: Personal Minimums Checklist

Pilot: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed with: \_\_\_\_\_, (if applicable)

### Your Personal Minimums Checklist—

- Is an easy-to-use, personal tool tailored to your level of skill, knowledge, and ability.
- Helps you control and manage risk by identifying even subtle risk factors.
- Allows you to fly with less stress and less risk. Practice “Conservatism Without Guilt.”

Each item provides you with either a space to complete a personal minimum or a checklist item to think about. Spend some quiet time completing each blank and consider other items that apply to your personal minimums. Give yourself permission to choose higher minimums than those specified in the regulations, aircraft flight manuals, or other rules.

### How To Use Your Checklist

Use this checklist just as you would use one for your aircraft. Carry the checklist in your flight kit. Use it at home as you start planning a flight and again just before you make your final decision to fly. Be wary if you have an item that’s marginal in any single risk factor category. But if you have items in more than one category, you may be headed for trouble. If you have marginal items in two or more risk factors/categories, do not go!

Periodically review and revise your checklist as your personal circumstances change, such as your proficiency, recency, or training. You should never make your minimums less restrictive unless a significant positive event has occurred. However, it is okay to make your minimums more restrictive at any time. And never make your minimums less restrictive when you are planning a specific flight, or else external pressures will influence you.

### Have a fun and safe flight!

### Pilot

Takeoffs/landings	_____ in the last _____ days
Hours in make/model	_____ in the last _____ days
Instrument approaches	_____ (simulated or actual) in the last _____ days
Instrument flight hours	_____ (simulated or actual) in the last _____ days
Terrain and airspace	familiar

### Physical Condition

Sleep	_____ hours in the last 24 hours
Food and water	in the last _____ hours
Alcohol	None in the last _____ hours
Drugs or medication	None in the last _____ hours
Stressful events	None in the last _____ days
Illnesses	None in the last _____ days

## Aircraft

### Fuel Reserves (Cross-Country)

VFR day \_\_\_\_\_ hours

VFR Night \_\_\_\_\_ hours

IFR day \_\_\_\_\_ hours

IFR Night \_\_\_\_\_ hours

### Experience in Type

Takeoffs/landings \_\_\_\_\_ in the last \_\_\_\_\_ days

Takeoffs/landings \_\_\_\_\_ in aircraft type

### Aircraft Performance

Establish that you have additional performance available over that required. Consider the following:

- Gross weight
- Load distribution
- Density altitude
- Performance charts

### Aircraft Equipment

Avionics familiar with equipment (including autopilot and GPS systems)

COM/NAV equipment appropriate to flight

Charts current

Clothing suitable for preflight and flight

Survival gear appropriate for flight/terrain

## Environment

### Airport Conditions

Crosswind \_\_\_\_\_ % of max POH

Runway length \_\_\_\_\_ % more than POH

### Weather

Reports and forecasts not more than \_\_\_\_\_ hours old

Icing conditions within aircraft/pilot capabilities

### Weather for VFR

Ceiling day \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Ceiling Night \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Visibility day \_\_\_\_\_ miles

Visibility Night \_\_\_\_\_ miles

### Weather for IFR

#### *Precision Approaches*

Ceiling \_\_\_\_\_ feet above min.

Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s) above min.

### *Non-Precision Approaches*

Ceiling \_\_\_\_\_ feet above min.

Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s) above min.

### *Missed Approaches*

No more than \_\_\_\_\_ before diverting

### *Takeoff Minimums*

Ceiling \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Visibility \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s)

## **External Pressures**

### **Trip Planning**

Allowance for delays \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

### **Alternate Plans for Diversion or Cancellation**

- Notification of person(s) you are meeting
- Passengers briefed on diversion or cancellation plans and alternatives
- Modification or cancellation of car rental, restaurant, or hotel reservations
- Arrangement of alternative transportation (airline, car, etc.)

### **Personal Equipment**

- Credit card and telephone numbers available for alternate plans
- Appropriate clothing or personal needs (eyewear, medication, etc.) in the event of unexpected stay

## **Importance of Trip**

The more important the trip, the more tendency there is to compromise personal minimums, and the more important it becomes to have alternate plans.