

Foreign Pilot Informational Letter

Thank you for contacting the Greater Chicago Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with your question regarding the application for a United States Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 61 Pilot Certificate on the basis of a foreign pilot's license.

NOTE: Foreign pilot conversion, or validations are required to be in accordance with an in person meeting with a [Designated Pilot Examiner \(DPE\)](#). Virtual appointments are not allowed.

Information regarding Foreign License Verification for Pilot's from an [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#) contracting state can be found at:

https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/foreign_license_verification/

All pilots issued a US Pilot certificate must meet the FAA Aviation English Language Standard (AELS). The minimum acceptable level to be considered "English Proficient" is an ICAO Language Proficiency Operational Level 4 per [Advisory Circular \(AC\) 60-28](#).

In order to exercise airmen privileges in flight, an airmen must have a valid medical certificate. In many cases a foreign medical will not be able to be verified/validated, or is expired. A medical certificate issued under [14 CFR Part 67, by a United States Aviation Medical Examiner \(AME\)](#), will be satisfactory. AMEs are available around the United States and many AMEs have offices in foreign countries as well.

Before exercising Pilot in Command (PIC) privileges of a US Pilot certificate, an airman must comply with 14 CFR [61.51 required logbook entries](#), [61.56 flight review requirements](#), [61.57 recency of experience](#), and [61.58 PIC proficiency check](#).

Foreign pilots apply for a 14 CFR US pilot certificate on the basis of

- [14 CFR 61.73 Military pilots or former military pilots: Special rules.](#)
- [14 CFR 61.75 Private pilot certificate issued on the basis of a foreign pilot license. Includes using a pilot certificate issued under Section 61.75 to apply for a commercial pilot certificate under Section 61.123 \(h\), and applying for an ATP certificate issued under 61.153 \(d\) \(3\)](#)
- [14 CFR 61.77 Special purpose pilot authorization: Operation of a civil aircraft of the United States and leased by a non-U.S. citizen.](#)

NOTE: Exceptions to the above are include special provisions in multi-national/Bilateral Agreements.

[Conversion process for Transport Canada Civil Aviation \(TCCA\) pilots AC 61-135](#)

[Conversion process for European Union Aviation Safety Agency \(EASA\) pilots AC 61-143](#)

FOREIGN MILITARY PILOTS – 61.73

For current or former military pilots, FAA Guidance for issuing a 14 CFR part 61 Pilot and/or Flight Instructor certificate based on military pilot qualifications: [FAA Order 8900.1 Volume 5, Chapter 2, Section 15](#)

NOTE: In order to issue a US pilot certificate on the basis of military competency, the military pilot from an ICAO contracting state **must have been assigned to pilot duties in the US Armed Forces, for purposes other than receiving flight training.** (Reference 5-619 (c)).

- Applicant will need to supply an acceptable record from a US armed services outlined in Table 5-7 of the guidance. E.g. AF Form 8, Certificate of Aircrew Qualification
- Applicant will need to supply the Military Competency Knowledge Test results (MCN).
- Some military and/or foreign ratings are not reflected in United States civilian type ratings. A listing of type ratings can be found at [FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 2, Section 19 Figure 5-88](#).

Once you have your documentation in order, contact one of the [Greater Chicago FSDO Designated Pilot Examiners \(DPE\)](#) that are listed as a Foreign Pilot Examiner to process your application.

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FOREIGN CIVILIAN PILOTS 61.75, 61.123 (h), 61.153 (d) (3)

For civilian pilots of an ICAO contracting state, FAA Guidance for issuing a 14 CFR part 61 United States pilot certificate on the basis of a foreign pilot license can be found at: [FAA order 8900.1 Volume 5, Chapter 2, Section 14](#)

Foreign civilian pilots have a few paths to certification which can be an entirely administrative process (no practical exam), to knowledge (written) exam required, to a knowledge and practical exam (check ride) required. The above guidance navigates the different pathways to certification.

Regardless of whether a foreign civilian pilot is applying for a US Private based on a foreign license, or an Airline Transport Rating, the first step is to apply for a verification of your foreign license and medical. In order to submit, go to the [Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application \(IACRA\)](#) site. Create an account if not already completed, then click Start Foreign License Verification Process. This application will take you through the process of completing and submitting a [Verification of Authenticity of Foreign License and Medical Certification, AC Form 8060-71](#).

NOTE: There are additional requirements for coordination with the foreign Civil Aviation Authorities for applicants with pilot licenses issued by Australia, Cyprus, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

You will receive written notification once the foreign license has been verified by the Airmen Certification Branch. You will also receive notification that a copy of the verification was sent to the [FSDO](#) which you specified in your application. Once you receive notification, if you will be choosing this office to process your request, contact one of the [Greater Chicago FSDO Designated Pilot Examiners](#) (DPEs) that are listed as a Foreign Pilot Examiner to process your application. The DPE is required to upload a copy of the verification letter to the application in IACRA. They will receive this letter from our office prior to your meeting.

NOTE: The verification letter does have an expiration date and is no longer valid after that date. If your verification letter is set to expire before you can set up an in person meeting, a new verification letter will need to be obtained. If you have been issued a US pilot certificate on the basis of your foreign license and require a change to the information on the certificate (address or name change, addition of instrument rating, etc.) you will require a valid verification letter.

NOTE: In some cases the knowledge exam is different than a US Pilot. For example to add an Instrument rating to a US Private Pilot certificate based on a Foreign Pilot License, the required exam is the Instrument Foreign Pilot (IFP) knowledge test. See FAA Order 8900.1 for details.

NOTE: If you are issued a US Private Pilot Certificate based on your foreign pilot certificate, all limitations on your foreign pilot certificate will apply. Your US private Pilot Certificate based on foreign will only be valid for the unexpired ratings of your foreign pilot certificate.

NOTE: If you are issued type ratings on your foreign civilian license, those type ratings cannot be placed on an unrestricted US Pilot Certificate (US certificate NOT issued on the basis of foreign license) without a practical exam by a US Designated Pilot Examiner (US Test Passed). Exceptions are present in certain bilateral agreements.

NOTE: If you are not able to verify your foreign pilot ratings you may apply for a Student Pilot Certificate and utilize your aeronautical experience in coordination with a US Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) training and endorsements take a practical exam for a US Pilot Certificate.

NOTE: Some training events for foreign nationals require a Security Threat Assessment from the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Flight Training Security Program (FTSP). Individuals that have been endorsed by the US Department of Defense (DOD) are exempt from the TSA security threat assessment.

If you have any further questions, you may contact this office Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Central Time at (847) 294-8700, or email 9-AVS-CHI-FSDO-03@faa.gov.