

DESINATED PILOT EXAMINER ADVISORY GROUP WP-07

EXAMINER BULLETIN NO. 15

MARCH 29, 2005

SUBJECT: GROUND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Running rampant through out the current Federal Aviation Regulations is the term "received and logged ground training" or "receive and log flight and ground training". Examples are 61.105A and 61.187A. Ground training being defined in 61.1b(8) as training other than flight training, received from an authorized instructor. The change in term and intent came about in the re write of FAR Part 61 in 1997. Prior to that time ground training was required but was not clearly represented as to how we as examiners, instructors, or students for that matter, were to verify the training was received. In the past a single line entry was generally accepted from an instructor saying something to the effect "I have given John Doe the ground training required". Many times just the signature on the back of the 8710 and/or in the logbook saying they were ready for the checkride was all you saw. The transition from pre 1997 requirements and the current requirements has been slow to come. Ground training, just as flight training, is to be logged. The date, subject matter, and the amount of time, is supposed to be recorded and signed by an instructor. It should be noted that FAR 61.189(a) requires flight instructors to sign the logbook of each person to whom they have give flight training or "ground training".

The DPEAG has reviewed and discussed the situation and have a suggestion as to how we as a group can improve and standardize the handling of ground training as associated with a practical test. In addition we have a suggestion the examiner group can pass on to those they deal with, both flight instructors and schools, as a meaningful way of keeping track of ground training.

As an examiner you need to be looking for "logged ground training". Some schools and instructors are doing a good job with lots of "stickers", detailed entries, and lots of writing in the log books in the back sections. "Logged" does not mean it has to be in the pilot logbook, but some kind of personal, permanent, record that can be presented. A single entry saying "I have given ground training required by 61.XXX" referencing the certificate or rating is marginal at best and does not meet the intent of the regulation. We need to start seeing endorsements that reflect the regulation AND the subject matter by reference, to be perfect. Having at least one of those references (regulation OR subject) should be good until we get everyone thinking along the same lines.

In many cases if you find an applicant with a deficient entry we can follow the course we have done in the past, call up the instructor and have them come over and make a more appropriate entry. A single entry referencing the subject matter and regulation number with some amount of time would be best. Perfection will be a while coming so we would not suggest trying to get verbatim with the regs and spending an absorbent amount of time going over logbook entries. Meanwhile continue the flight test in order to be of service and spread the word.

Discussions have been had as to what is a good way to keep track of the ground training. Its really very simple and maybe the pilot log book manufactures will get the point in the near future. Use the pilot logbook entry line exactly like you were logging flight time. Record chronologically along with and as you do flight time, filling in the appropriate column and remarks. In the remarks and signature column, put the subject matter, regulation requirement and sign it. Take a blank column or unneeded column and head it up 'Ground Training' or "G.T". The pilot could log a flight and associated ground training on one line or separately if they wished. As pilot examiners we could check the appropriate endorsement in the endorsement section or back of the logbook and check the logged ground training in the same fashion we check the flight training. Since there is no minimum ground training hours required currently, (except for the Flight Review) we scan the ground training entries for subject matter. An example in the remarks section might be "FAR's-61.105 b,1" or "Weather situations, reports, and use of charts-61.105 b,6". I wouldn't get picky on to much detail. You are looking for the minimums as listed in the particular regulation. Some may use a whole line across the page like some wordy people like to do or very briefly in just the remarks section.

Home study courses are a little different to handle. There should be some type of certificate associated with the course that is filled out and signed by the applicant verifying they have completed the training. It should have some verification that all the appropriate training was completed.

Please pass this around to the CFI's and schools you work with and therefore accelerate this process of logging ground training.

John Walkup  
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