

DESIGNATED PILOT EXAMINER ADVISORY GROUP WP-07

EXAMINER BULLETIN NO. 4

APRIL 10, 2003

SUBJECT: PRIVATE PILOT GROUND REFERENCE MANEUVER-TURNS AROUND A POINT

As we all know, in the Private Pilot Practical Test Standard there is the requirement to perform the maneuver “Turns about a Point”. In the previous edition of the current PTS there was a statement to have the maneuver demonstrated to the left only. The current PTS (and rightfully so) requires the maneuver to be demonstrated in either left or right directions. Do not allow yourself to get into the habit of doing the maneuver in only one direction and pass this information on to those you have the opportunity to provide flight tests. In addition the previous edition required the bank angle at the steepest point to be approximately 45 degrees. The current PTS has left this statement out. The Airplane Flying Handbook 8083-3 and its predecessor both call for a standard to be 45 degrees at the steepest point. Since the 45-degree statement is not there you will find flight schools and therefore the applicants using shallow banks and very large radii. This has happened before and resulted in 15-degree banks and ½ mile radii. This is not the intent of the maneuver, defeats its purpose and promotes a very low competency in its performance. Please uphold the standard of the 45 and see those you work with are aware of these standards.

Throughout the PTS for all flight tests the word “specified” is used quite often. Specified, unless otherwise noted, has been previously defined as “specified by the examiner” and is stated as such in the tasks. You have the ability to ask for banks, stalls, configurations, and speeds as appropriate for the aircraft being flown with the support of the references itemized in the front of each PTS.

Thank you very much,

John Walkup
Chairman
DPE Advisory Group