

DESIGNATED PILOT EXAMINER ADVISORY GROUP WP-07

EXAMINER BULLETIN NO. 9
MARCH 27, 2005 "REVISED"

SUBJECT: GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) DATA BASE CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
FLIGHT TESTS

A previous bulletin on this subject was presented in March of 2004 concerning the fact that a current data base for a GPS was not required for a flight test for the instrument rating under certain conditions. The DPEAG had recommended for all to accept a current data base as was your prerogative.

The revised Instrument Rating for Airplanes, Helicopter, and Powered Lift effective October 2004 states in the introduction section page 7, you must have a current data base if using GPS for one of the required instrument approaches. It can't be simpler than that. You now need a current data base.

Another area that has come to light is what about a current data base when using a GPS for an instrument flight demonstration on a multi engine flight test for instrument privileges when the pilot is already instrument rated. Another example is on a CFI instrument rating add-on where the applicant is teaching a GPS approach. The DPEAG has discussed this and has come to the conclusion that a current data base under those circumstances is not necessary. For standardization purposes, we would suggest that as an examiner, at your discretion, may conduct those flight tests without a current data base for the GPS. If you were, for any reason, to conduct those flight tests under actual IFR conditions you need a current data base.

John Walkup
WP-07-07