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Technical Requirements for the Student Pilot Licence (Gyroplane) [SPL(G)], Private Pilot Licence (Gyroplane) [PPL(G)], Flight Instructor Rating (Gyroplane) [FI(G)], Gyroplane Ratings and for the Registration of Training Facilities for the PPL(G) and FI(G)

1. Definition of Gyroplane

- 1.1 A 'Gyroplane' is a heavier than air aircraft supported in flight by the reactions of the air on one or more rotors which rotate freely on substantially vertical axes.
- 1.2 The Rotorcraft Gyroplane class for the purposes of this Direction is defined as follows:

A Gyroplane having not more than two seats, with a maximum takeoff mass of 560Kg.

2. Pilot Licence Ratings and Validity Periods

- 2.1 The pilot licence rating for single-engine piston (SEP) Gyroplanes is as follows:
- SEP Gyroplane.
- 2.2 Gyroplane ratings are valid for two years from the date of issue, or from the date of expiry if revalidated within the validity period. They shall be subject to revalidation in accordance with the requirements of sub-paragraph 8.1 of this Direction or renewal in accordance with the requirements of sub-paragraph 8.2 of this Direction.
- 2.3 Type Ratings may be issued, as appropriate, for gyroplanes having more than one engine and for gyroplanes with turbojet or turboprop propulsion or with hybrid flight control systems. Such Type Ratings will have a maximum validity period and shall be subject to such revalidation or

renewal requirements as are prescribed by the Authority in the particular case. A separate engine used for rotor pre-rotation only will not be considered to require a separate Type Rating under this part.

- 2.4** FI(G) ratings will have a maximum validity period of 3 years and shall be subject to revalidation or renewal in accordance with requirements of sub-paragraph 8.3 of this Direction.

3. Age Limits

- 3.1** Article 38 of the Irish Aviation Authority (Personnel Licensing) Order, 2000, (S.I. No. 333 of 2000) shall apply to the applicant for a Student Pilot Licence or Private Pilot Licence for gyroplanes.
- 3.2** An applicant for an FI(G) (Restricted Privileges) or an FI(G) shall be not less than 18 years of age.

4. Medical Requirements

- 4.1** An Applicant for a Student Pilot Licence or Private Pilot Licence for gyroplanes shall hold a Class 2 Medical Certificate, issued in accordance with Article 39 of the Irish Aviation Authority (Personnel Licensing) Order, 2000, (S.I. No. 333 of 2000) and the requirements of JAR-FCL Part 3 (Medical).

5. Technical Requirements

Technical requirements for gyroplane pilot licences are as follows:

- 5.1** An applicant for a PPL (G) shall produce evidence of having satisfactorily completed a course of both ground and flying training to a syllabus recognised by the Authority. Such training shall be carried out at a Registered Training Facility (RTF) or a Flight Training Organisation (FTO) authorised or approved by the Authority. Flight training shall consist of:
- (a) At least 40 hours flight time as a pilot of gyroplanes, which shall consist of.
 - (b) At least 10 hours dual flying training in gyroplanes.
 - (c) At least 10 hours of Supervised Solo flight as Pilot in Command (PIC) of gyroplanes, which must include.
 - i) at least 3 hours Solo cross-country flying, which must include.
 - ii) two flights to an aerodrome not less than 25 nm from the departure aerodrome with a full stop landing at the destination aerodrome.

- (d) For persons owning or intending to fly single seat variants after licence issue, an approved single seat gyroplane with a valid Permit to Fly C of A may also be used on the course after a specified minimum of dual flight instruction. In this case the requirement for 4 hours differences flight training, not including wheel balancing, for single seat gyroplanes must be met in addition to the PPL(G) syllabus requirements.

5.2 Credits from Flying Training.

- (a) Holders of pilot licences for aeroplanes, microlights (both weight shift/flex wing and three axis aircraft), gliders (with Silver C minimum qualification), self-sustaining gliders or self-launching gliders may be credited with up to a maximum of 10 hours towards the flying training requirements, but are required to complete the minimum requirements specified in 5.1 (c)(i) and 5.1 (c)(ii).
- (b) Holders of pilot licences for helicopters may be credited with up to 20 hours, and are required to complete the minimum requirements specified in 5.1 (c)(i) and 5.1 (c)(ii).
- (c) Flight time in an authorised gyro glider with an Authorised Gyro glider Instructor or Flying Instructor Gyroplanes (FI(G)) may be counted toward the dual flying requirement up to a maximum of 2 hours for an applicant on the 40 hour ab-initio course, and 2 hours for pilots converting from other aircraft types as specified above.

5.3 Credits from Ground Examinations.

- (a) The holder of a current and valid Pilot Licence (Aeroplane or Helicopter) issued by an ICAO Contracting State, the holder of a valid Irish National or JAR-FCL Pilot Licence (**except Balloons**) will be credited with all of the ground examinations with the exception of the Aircraft General (Gyroplane) Technical examination.
- (b) Holders of a Free Balloon licence will be required to pass all of the required Irish National PPL (G) ground examinations.

5.4 An applicant for a gyroplane rating shall have received the required dual flight instruction in the relevant class or type from a suitably qualified FI(G) and shall have passed the appropriate knowledge and skill tests in the format issued by the Authority pursuant to this Direction.

5.5 The holder of a current pilot licence valid for aircraft rating privileges for categories of aircraft other than gyroplane shall meet all the requirements of paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of this Direction. However, at the discretion of the Authority, the requirements of course duration and specific training hours may be reduced. The Authority may be guided as

to the credits to be granted on the basis of a recommendation from the CFI of an appropriate gyroplane RTF.

6. Technical Requirements for Issue of Flying Instructor (Gyroplane) FI(G)

Technical requirements for a Flying Instructor (Gyroplane) rating are as follows:

- 6.1** An applicant for an FI(G) (Restricted Privileges) shall have:
- (a) Completed at least 150 hours of flight time in aircraft of which at least 100 hours shall be as pilot-in-command of Gyroplanes.
 - (b) Meet at least the knowledge requirements for issue of a PPL(G) and for the gyroplane class or type rating on which it is intended to instruct.
 - (c) Completed at a gyroplane RTF an accepted FI(G) Course comprising at least 20 hours flight training on the gyroplane type for which the FI(G) is sought and complete the associated ground training (including practice and progress tests).
 - (d) Passed the appropriate FI(G) Licence Skill Test.
- 6.2** An applicant for an FI(G) rating shall have:
- (a) A current FI (G) (Restricted Privileges) rating on a gyroplane.
 - (b) Completed at least 250 hours of flight time in gyroplanes of which at least 200 hours shall be as pilot-in-command of gyroplane and of which not less than 100 hours shall be flight instruction on a gyroplane.
 - (c) Supervised at least 25 student solo flights in gyroplane.
 - (d) A recommendation from the supervising CFI(G) for the grant of the FI(G) rating sought.

7. Licence and Rating Privileges

Privileges for gyroplane pilot licences and associated aircraft or FI(G) ratings are contained in sub-paragraphs 7.1 to 7.6 of this Direction, as follows:

- 7.1** The holder a valid SPL(G) may fly solo in a gyroplane when and as directed by a duly authorised FI(G).
- 7.2** The holder a valid PPL(G) may act, but not for remuneration (save where given in the circumstances mentioned in the proviso to paragraph (2) of Article 2 of the Irish Aviation Authority (Personnel Licensing) Order, 2000, or when acting as an examiner authorised by the Authority

to conduct tests on gyroplane) as pilot-in-command of any gyroplane engaged in non-revenue flights.

- 7.3** The holder of a valid FI(G) (Restricted Privileges) rating is entitled to carry out, under the supervision of a FI(G), flight instruction for the issue of the PPL(G) and class or type ratings for gyroplanes, but is not entitled to authorise first solo flights and first solo navigation flights nor to certify any item which is required to be certified in relation to gyroplane flight training.
- 7.4** The holder of a valid FI(G) rating is entitled to carry out flight instruction for the issue of the PPL(G) and class or type ratings for gyroplanes and to authorise first solo flights and first solo navigation flights and to certify any item which is required to be certified in relation to gyroplane flight training. Such FI(G) may also carry out flight instruction for the issue of a FI(G) rating, provided that the FI(G) has met the minimum experience requirements prescribed by the Authority pursuant to this Direction and has passed a FI(G) skill test conducted by an examiner authorised by the Authority for that purpose.
- 7.5** The privileges of the FI(G) or restricted FI(G) rating shall not be exercised unless in the previous 12 months the instructor has completed at least 15 hours of flight instruction or examining from a pilot's seat on gyroplanes. Where this experience requirement has lapsed, and provided the instructor rating is still valid, a skill test in accordance with paragraph 5.2 (d) of this Direction shall be passed.
- 7.6** The holder of a valid gyroplane rating is entitled to act as pilot-in-command of the relevant class or type, provided that the holder shall not act as pilot-in-command of a gyroplane carrying a passenger or a student pilot unless within the preceding 90 days such holder has completed three take-offs and landings as the sole manipulator of the controls in a gyroplane of the same type.
- 7.7.** Additional Manufacturer types.
- (a) A Gyroplane PPL is issued with the privilege to fly the class rating of gyroplane i.e. single engine gyroplane. Pilots wishing to fly gyroplanes other than the specific manufactured type that they received flight training on, shall receive appropriate differences training from a suitably qualified FI(G) and have their log book endorsed by the instructor.
- (b) In the case of single seat gyroplanes, arrangements shall be made with a FI(G) for the differences training to be covered and, where necessary, a flight demonstration by the pilot to confirm his/her competency. A logbook endorsement shall be made by the FI(G). Differences flight training shall consist of at least 4 hours of flight training which shall not include time spent on wheel balancing exercises.

- (c) There may be occasions when the ownership of a rare single seat gyroplane type is transferred or another pilot wishes to fly such a machine. In such circumstances, where there is no instructor with the appropriate experience on the machine, the pilot qualified on the specific type shall arrange with a FI(G) for the supervision of appropriate differences training and log book endorsement is to be made by the FI(G).
- (d) In the interest of flight safety, it is imperative that the differences training set out in paragraphs (a) to (c) is carried out.

8. Revalidation and Renewal of Ratings

8.1 For revalidation of single-engine piston gyroplane class ratings the applicant shall on single-engine piston gyroplanes:

- (a) Within the three months preceding the expiry date of the rating, pass a proficiency check with a gyroplane examiner on a single-engine piston gyroplane.

or,

- (b) Within the 12 months preceding the expiry of the rating:
 - (i) complete a total of not less than 12 hours of flight time in gyroplanes to include not less than 6 hours as pilot-in-command in gyroplanes and 12 take-offs and 12 landings; and
 - (ii) complete a gyroplane refresher training course consisting of not less than 1 hours ground revision and a flight of at least 1 hour duration with a suitably qualified FI(G). This flight may be replaced by any other proficiency check or skill test for any other gyroplane rating.

8.2 Where a single-engine piston gyroplane class rating has expired, the applicant shall complete the appropriate Licence Skill Test for renewal.

8.3 FI Revalidation.

For revalidation of a FI(G) rating the holder shall have fulfilled two of the following three requirements:

- (a) Completed at least 50 hours of flight instruction on gyroplanes as a FI(G) or as an examiner during the period of validity of the rating, including at least 15 hours of flight instruction within the 12 months preceding the expiry date of the FI(G) rating.
- (b) Attended a FI(G) refresher seminar as approved by the Authority within the validity period of the FI(G) rating.

- (c) Passed, as a proficiency check, the skill test set out in paragraph 5.4 of this Direction within the 12 months preceding the expiry date of the FI(G) rating.

(Note: An FI(A) or FI(H) refresher seminar approved by the Authority may be accepted, at the discretion of the Authority)

- (d) For each alternate revalidation of an FI(G) rating the holder shall pass, as a proficiency check, the appropriate FI(G) skill test as one of the two requirements to be fulfilled to comply with paragraph 8.3 of this Direction.
- (e) Where a FI(G) rating has lapsed, the applicant shall meet the requirements as set out in paragraphs 8.3(b) and 8.3(c) of this Direction.

9. Registration of Gyroplane Aeroplane Training Facilities

- 9.1** A gyroplane training facility conducting training for gyroplane pilot licences and associated FI(G) ratings shall register with the Authority by submitting a completed Registration Form issued by the Authority pursuant to this Direction.
- 9.2** A training facility shall remain registered until the Authority is notified by the operator that PPL(G) training is to cease or, should the Authority establish that instruction is not being carried out safely and/or in compliance with the requirements. In either of these cases the registration of the facility may, at the discretion of the Authority be suspended, varied or revoked.

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