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Bulletin

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NVG Pilot Currency Requirements FAR 61.57

The Federal Aviation Administration provides the following guidance as the minimum requirements for NVG pilot currency while using Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). The information contained was taken directly from the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations accessible by visiting <http://www.faa.gov>.

FAR 61.57 Recent Flight Experience: Pilot In Command

(f) *Night vision goggle operating experience.* (1) A person may act as pilot in command in a night vision goggle operation with passengers on board only if, within 2 calendar months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the following tasks as the sole manipulator of the controls on a flight during a night vision goggle operation—

(i) Three takeoffs and three landings, with each takeoff and landing including a climbout, cruise, descent, and approach phase of flight (only required if the pilot wants to use night vision goggles during the takeoff and landing phases of the flight).

(ii) Three hovering tasks (only required if the pilot wants to use night vision goggles when operating helicopters or powered-lifts during the hovering phase of flight).

(iii) Three area departure and area arrival tasks.

(iv) Three tasks of transitioning from aided night flight (*aided night flight* means that the pilot uses night vision goggles to maintain visual surface reference) to unaided night flight (*unaided night flight* means that the pilot does not use night vision goggles) and back to aided night flight.

(v) Three night vision goggle operations, or **when operating helicopters or powered-lifts, six night vision goggle operations.** (see clarification statement at end of Bulletin)

(2) A person may act as pilot in command using night vision goggles only if, within the 4 calendar months preceding the month of the flight, that person performs and logs the tasks listed in paragraph (f)(1)(i) through (v) of this section as the sole manipulator of the controls during a night vision goggle operation.

(g) *Night vision goggle proficiency check.* A person must either meet the night vision goggle experience requirements of paragraphs (f)(1) or (f)(2) of this section or pass a night vision goggle proficiency check to act as pilot in command using night vision goggles. The proficiency check must be performed in the category of aircraft that is appropriate to the night vision goggle operation for which the person is seeking the night vision goggle privilege or in a flight simulator or flight training device that is representative of that category of aircraft. The check must consist of the tasks listed in §61.31(k), and the check must be performed by:

(1) An Examiner who is qualified to perform night vision goggle operations in that same aircraft category and class;



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- (2) A person who is authorized by the U.S. Armed Forces to perform night vision goggle proficiency checks, provided the person being administered the check is also a member of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- (3) A company check pilot who is authorized to perform night vision goggle proficiency checks under parts 121, 125, or 135 of this chapter, provided that both the check pilot and the pilot being tested are employees of that operator;
- (4) An authorized flight instructor who is qualified to perform night vision goggle operations in that same aircraft category and class;
- (5) A person who is qualified as pilot in command for night vision goggle operations in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section; or
- (6) A person approved by the FAA to perform night vision goggle proficiency checks.

What is an NVG Operation to meet FAR 61.57?

An NVG operation is simply an NVG flight conducted within the timeframe described in FAR 61.1 (NVG Operation). To meet currency in a helicopter, you must conduct six (6) NVG operations.

What tasks must be accomplished to meet FAR 61.57?

During the six (6) NVG operations, you must conduct at least three (3) of the following tasks if you wish to conduct that specific task while using NVGs:

- Takeoffs and Landings
- Hovering
- Area Departures / Arrivals
- Aided to Unaided transitions

If you only use NVG for takeoffs and landings but do not use NVGs for hovering, you would not need to conduct hovering currency. Only the tasks that the pilot will perform while using NVGs are required to be conducted.

Source: FAA

Learn More

Contact:

Randy Rowles
VP, Business Development, Night Flight Concepts
1-(561) 386-6078
randy.rowles@nightflightconcepts.com

