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NVG Annual Checking Requirements for FAR 135

The following guidance provided by the Federal Aviation Administration describes the minimum checking requirements to maintain NVG annual currency for Part 135 operations using Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). The Order outlines minimum criteria that must be met to maintain NVG annual currency under an FAA approved Part 135 NVG training program. The information contained was taken directly from the FAA Order 8900.1 Volume 4, Chapter 7, Section 4 accessible by visiting <http://www.faa.gov>.

FAA Order 8900.1 Training Program Requirements (NVG Part 135)

A common misconception in pilot NVG qualification requirements is that qualified NVG pilots must always be trained and checked in “each aircraft” approved for NVG use on an annual basis. Section 135.293, Initial and Recurrent Pilot Testing Requirements, requires part 135 pilots to have completed an annual written or oral test, and a competency check in each aircraft type. Furthermore, § 135.293(a)(2) states that each pilot must be tested on the installed major appliances and contents of the Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM) or equivalent.

Section 135.293(b) of the regulations refers to helicopter type as “basic make and model” when completing pilot testing. This language has led operators to believe that training and checking of NVG qualified pilots in each NVG approved make and model aircraft was always required on an annual basis. However, there are limitations to the number of § 135.293 checks that are necessary to meet the NVG qualification and currency requirements.

In addition to the checking requirements outlined in § 135.293, FAA Order 8900.1 and OpSpec A050 provide supplemental information for NVG currency requirements. These documents require NVG qualified pilots to maintain a 90-day currency requirement when conducting NVG operations, and such currency is limited to aircraft “category and class” (i.e., rotorcraft/helicopter) and type, if applicable.

The NVG requirements are determined to be similar within most helicopters, (i.e., there are no make/model specific NVG currency requirements). However, there are 90-day HNVGO currency requirements pertaining to category/class, and type, if applicable.

Source: FAA

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