

# LICENSING & STANDARDS GUIDANCE



**April 2026**

**Applicability: Participants with microlight flight time experience seeking the issue or upgrade of a Part 61 pilot licence or rating**

## **RECOGNITION OF MICROLIGHT FLIGHT TIME TOWARD PART 61 LICENCES AND RATINGS**

### **Introduction**

This guidance material provides information to participants on the recognition and crediting of flight time accrued in microlight aircraft when applying for the issue or upgrade of a pilot licence or rating issued under Part 61 of the Civil Aviation Rules. This guidance is intended to support applicants in understanding how microlight flight experience is assessed against flight time and experience requirements.

### **Background**

Part 61 prescribes flight time and experience requirements for the issue of pilot licences and ratings. In several cases, these requirements specify experience gained in an appropriate category of aircraft. Part 1 of the Civil Aviation Rules clearly defines aircraft categories, including aeroplane, helicopter and microlight, as distinct categories. Questions have arisen regarding whether flight time accrued in microlight aircraft, including operations conducted under Part 61 privileges such as glider towing, may be credited toward aeroplane and helicopter experience requirements.

### **Position**

Where a Part 61 licence or rating specifies flight time or experience in the appropriate category of aircraft, flight time gained in a microlight aircraft is not considered to meet that requirement when the appropriate category is an aeroplane or helicopter. The use of a microlight aircraft while exercising a Part 61 privilege, for example glider towing operations, does not change the aircraft category in which the experience is gained.

### **Rationale**

This position reflects the intent of Part 61 and the Civil Aviation Act 2023, which require that prescribed requirements be met before an aviation document can be issued. Aircraft category distinctions ensure applicants have relevant experience in comparable aircraft.

## **Summary**

- Aeroplanes, helicopters and microlights are distinct aircraft categories under Part 61.
- Microlight flight time does not meet Part 61 aeroplane or helicopter experience requirements.
- Exercising Part 61 rating privileges does not alter aircraft category.