LICENSING & STANDARDS GUIDANCE

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Mana Rererangi Tūmatanui o Aotearoa

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Applicability: CPL Holders

RECOGNITION OF CO-PILOT FLIGHT TIME ON AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATED FOR SINGLE-PILOT OPERATION

Introduction

This guidance material provides information to commercial pilot licence holders clarifying the recognition and crediting of co-pilot flight time as described in AC61-7, Appendix 1 2.1.1 (a)(4).

This guidance addresses co-pilot time accrued on aircraft that were originally certificated by the State of manufacture for single-pilot operation, but which are required by CAA or the State of Registry, to be operated with a co-pilot. This guidance is intended to support pilots in understanding how such flight time may be assessed when applying for the upgrade to a New Zealand Airline Transport Pilot Licence.

Background

Differences may exist between the certification basis of an aircraft and the operational requirements imposed by the CAA or another ICAO State. In some situations, an aircraft that was originally certificated for single-pilot operation may be required by the State of the Operator to be flown with a co-pilot. Questions frequently arise regarding whether flight time accrued in a co-pilot role on such aircraft may be credited towards the total flight time requirements for a higher grade of pilot licence under the New Zealand system.

Position

New Zealand licensing assessments are conducted in alignment with ICAO Annex 1, subject to applicable Civil Aviation Rules. Where a pilot is acting as co-pilot on an aircraft that is certificated for single-pilot operation but is required by the State of Registry to be operated with a co-pilot, **not more than fifty per cent of the co-pilot flight time** may be credited towards the total flight time required for a higher grade of pilot licence.

When assessing applications for the upgrade of a New Zealand pilot licence CAA will consider whether the submitted co-pilot flight time meets the intent of ICAO Annex 1. Relevant factors include whether the State of the Operator formally requires two pilot

operations, whether the aircraft is operated as a multi-crew operation, and whether the applicant was operating in a genuine co-pilot role with defined duties. The presence of a second pilot alone does not establish eligibility for flight time credit.

Evidence and Record Keeping

Pilots operating under another jurisdiction who perform co-pilot duties on aircraft certificated for single-pilot operations, where the **State requires the aircraft to be operated with a co-pilot**, must provide clear documentary evidence of that State's requirement. This evidence will be required when assessing any subsequent application to credit that flight time towards a New Zealand licence upgrade.

Pilots operating within CAANZ approved Part 119 organisations in accordance with CAR 135.511(b) and CAR125.525(a) automatically meet this requirement.

Summary

CAA, in alignment with ICAO Annex 1, permits up to fifty per cent of co-pilot flight time to be credited where a single-pilot certificated aircraft is required to be operated with a co-pilot. Eligibility for credit depends on the operating States' regulatory requirements and genuine multi-crew operation.

References

ICAO Annex 1 - Personnel Licensing

Civil Aviation Rule Part 61.31(a)

Civil Aviation Rule Part 125.525(a)

Civil Aviation Rule Part 135.511(b)

Advisory Circular AC61-7 Appendix I 2.1.1(a)(4)