

# DAILY FLIGHT RECORDS

The flight record is the only log of an aircraft's daily activities – in detail. When a single aircraft is being flown by many pilots, it's self-evident that it's important to know who did what, when.

But it also makes sense for Part 91 pilots to keep a flight record up-to-date.

Many examiners have noted that daily flight records are generally well-maintained during ab initio training, but they often 'slip' once a pilot starts to get a few hours under their belt. Pilots, regardless of their experience or training status have an obligation to keep accurate records. This obligation extends to the aircraft operator as well.

Among the many excellent reasons an operator and pilot should keep a current daily flight record:

- » It's a record of the duration of flights, which helps to indicate when the plane is due for its next maintenance check. It's important to note that the daily flight record isn't the same as the technical log. The tech log documents time in service, whereas the daily flight record documents flight time and must be kept by the operator for 12 months after the flight. The tech log does not meet the requirements of a daily flight record.
- » It also feeds information into the pilot logbook, necessary for the assurance of the Director of Civil Aviation regarding a pilot's competency and currency.
- » In a sector obsessed with 'hours', it keeps track of how many hours a pilot is accumulating, and allows them to verify an entry in their logbook.
- » It assists the filling out of CAA quarterly returns for the aircraft.
- » It's evidence of where a pilot was at a particular time, putting to rest arguments over a landing invoice for instance, or people on the ground complaining of a 'nuisance' aircraft.
- » It's the sole legal source where such details are collectively recorded.

Daily flight records are required under Parts 91, 115, and 135. Beyond compliance, it's also helpful to both pilot and operator to have one filled out after each flight.



// Nelson Aviation College C-cat instructor Breanna Coffey and CPL student Rachel Mackie fill out the daily flight record for ZK-NAX.

For the record (no pun intended), under rule 91.112(a), a daily flight record must contain the following:

- (1) the name of the operator
- (2) the name of the pilot-in-command
- (3) the names of other crew members
- (4) the registration markings of the aircraft
- (5) the date of the flight
- (6) the purpose of the flight
- (7) the time of commencement of the flight
- (8) the name of the departure aerodrome
- (9) the flight time.

If you're a Part 115 participant, check your obligations under rule 115.455. If you're a Part 135 participant, check them under rule 135.857. 