

Instructors' corner – Flight reviews

Just a short note about flight reviews. Prior to the introduction of Part 61 licences in September 2014, one Flight Review covered you for all your flying, except ratings such as instrument and instructor ratings. As of last September, you now need a Flight Review for your:

- Single-engine aeroplane (SEA) class rating;
- Multi-engine aeroplane (MEA) class rating (a Flight Review for MEA covers SEA);
- Night VFR rating;
- Low level rating; and
- Private Instrument Rating (PIFR).

As before, the ratings don't expire. They're permanently valid, but you need an AFR if you want to keep using them. The flight reviews are all valid for two years, apart from the low level rating, which needs a review every 12 months.

The ratings that didn't require a flight review prior to September 2014 are usable as long as you have done a flight review in the last two years, which of course means until your current flight review expires. For instance, if you have SEA, MEA and NVFR ratings, and your AFR is due in January 2016, you can use all your ratings until that date. To continue using any of them after January 2016, you'll need a flight review for all of them.

The main one that will affect some club pilots is Night VFR. Once your old (pre-September 2014) AFR expires, your NVFR rating currency will expire. So you'll need to do your normal AFR by day, and also one by night if you want to keep using your NVFR rating.

A useful snippet: if you complete a flight review any time in the three months before it is due, your original renewal month remains unchanged. This means your new review will be valid for two years after your current one expires, even if you renew it early. For example, if your single-engine aeroplane flight review is due to expire at the end of April 2016 but you'll be on your round-the-world cruise in March and April, you can do your AFR in February 2016, and your next flight review will be due at the end of April 2018, not February 2018, so you don't "lose" a couple of months' worth of validity by doing it early.

As always, please give Charles or me a call if you have any questions.

Kevin