

# PILOT LICENSING IN CANADA

Beginning a career as a professional pilot can take many paths and directions. This document is meant to help simplify and explain the key steps needed to start that journey. More documents are available through the Transport Canada website that explain in detail licensing in Canada and exact requirements for each step. Another great source is to speak with someone at your local flight training school and they can help answer all the questions you may have.

Pilot licensing in Canada is a staged process beginning with the Private Pilot Licence. Once completed, subsequent Ratings and Licenses can be built upon that initial licence. Every Licence and Rating entitles a pilot to perform different flying activities and operate different types of aircraft.

Depending on the licence or rating, a student is required to have minimum flying experience, classroom time, pass a written exam and/or complete a flight test. Recurrent medical exams are also a requirement in order to ensure pilots health throughout their flying years. This document is intended to give a basic description of each step in pilot training; exact requirements are defined by Transport Canada and can be found in more detail on their website.

*\*It is important to understand that minimum requirements for each licence and rating are just minimums. Every individual is different and the overwhelming majority require more flight experience and training in order to complete them. Students should expect and plan to exceed these minimums with the ultimate goal of being safe and proficient after each level of their training.\**

Flying hours never go away, so hours completed can often be applied to subsequent flight training goals. Once the Private Pilot Licence is attained, any rating may be added to give further privileges. The following is the normal and recommended order those ratings are completed:

## **Private Pilot Licence (PPL)**

The Private Pilot License is the first licence a pilot can get. Training is designed to bring a student from no aviation knowledge to the level where they can fly and operate an aircraft on their own.

The PPL entitles a holder to operate a single engine aircraft for personal or recreational use during the day and in weather that always allows the pilot to maintain visual reference to the ground (flight through clouds and poor weather must be avoided).

Some of the minimum requirements to obtain the Private Pilot Licence are:

- 45 Hrs of Flight Training which includes dual (with an instructor) and solo flying (alone)
- Attending a minimum of 40 hours of Private Pilot Ground School
- An oral English Proficiency Exam (compulsory for those that do not have proof of attending high school in Canada and proof of Canadian citizenship).
- Achieve 60% or better on the Transport Canada Private Pilot Written Exam
- Successful completion of a Private Pilot Flight Test

*\*The average full-time student can reasonably expect 60-80 hours of flying time to get their PPL*

### **Night Rating**

The Night Rating allows a Private Pilot to operate an aircraft at times of darkness; however flight in clouds and bad weather is still restricted. No flight or written test is required for this rating.

Some of the minimum requirements to obtain a Night Rating are:

- A Private Pilot Licence
- 15 additional hours flight training, which includes both dual and solo flying

### **Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)**

The Commercial Pilot Licence allows for employment as a pilot. Training is designed to develop and improve flying abilities beyond that of a private pilot. The skill and knowledge of a Commercial Pilot must meet higher standards that ensure safety while operating in the aviation industry.

The CPL entitles the holder to operate as pilot-in-command of a single-pilot aircraft or as co-pilot of a multi-crew aircraft (multi-crew aircraft qualification also requires written IATRA exam referred to later).

Some of the minimum requirements to obtain the Commercial Pilot Licence are:

- 200 hours total flight experience
- 100 hours of pilot-in-command experience
- 65 hours of additional Flight Training (dual and solo) beyond the PPL level
- A minimum of 80 hours of Commercial Pilot Ground School
- Achieve 60% or better on the Transport Canada Commercial Pilot Written Exam
- Successful completion of a Commercial Pilot Flight Test

*\*The average full-time student can reasonably expect 200-230 hours of flying time to get their CPL\**

### **Multi-Engine Rating\***

The Multi-Engine Rating allows a pilot to operate an aircraft with more than one engine. No written test is required for this rating and there is no minimum flight time required. However, there is a flight test which typically requires 10 additional hours of dual flight training in order to adequately prepare for.

- Applicant must already possess a Private Pilot Licence or higher

\*Can be obtained as part of the CPL program or can be obtained after completion of CPL

## **Instrument Rating**

The Instrument Rating is commonly considered the most difficult rating to achieve. It entitles a pilot to operate an aircraft with reference only to instruments. This skill allows a pilot to operate through cloud and in poor weather where reference to the ground and horizon are not possible.

There are no minimum ground school requirements for this rating; however, it is highly recommended for a pilot to prepare for the written exam through available courses such as those provided by AeroCourse®.

Some of the minimum requirements to obtain an Instrument Rating are:

- A Private or Commercial Pilot Licence
- Achieve 70% or better on the Transport Canada Instrument Rating Written Exam
- Successful passing of a flight test in an aircraft of desired group (multi-engine and/or single-engine)
- 40 cumulative hours instrument time which may include up to 20 hours in an approved flight training device (FTD)

\*Can be obtained as part of the CPL program or can be obtained after completion of CPL

*\*An Instrument Rating is issued for either multi-engine or single-engine aircraft. A Multi-Engine Instrument Rating applies to both multi and single-engine aircraft, however a Single-Engine Instrument Rating only applies to single-engine aircraft. A Multi-Engine Instrument Rating is highly recommended for career oriented pilots.\**

## **Type Rating for Two Crew Aeroplane (IATRA)**

The Type Rating for Two Crew Aeroplanes (IATRA) is a written examination that entitles the holder of a Commercial Pilot Licence to act as co-pilot of a multi-crew aircraft. Although not a licence or a rating on its own, without completion of this exam the holder of a Commercial Pilot Licence is restricted to operating single-pilot aircraft only.

The IATRA exam is intended to ensure a pilot has the required knowledge to operate a more complex transport category aircraft, which typically require more than one pilot. The exam is not compulsory, however, it opens many more job opportunities for commercial pilots wishing to progress in their career.

The requirements to write an IATRA and be entitled to operate as co-pilot of a multi-crew airplane:

- A Commercial Pilot Licence
- 250 hours total flight time
- Achieve 70% or better on the Transport Canada Aeroplane Type Rating for Two Crew or Cruise Relief Pilot Written Exam (IATRA)

## **Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL)**

The Airline Transport Pilot Licence is the most advanced and the final licence a pilot can obtain. Due to the requirements, it likely will take years of commercial flying experience before a pilot meets the requirements to hold an ATPL. No additional flight training is required, however it is highly recommended for a pilot to prepare for the written exams through available courses such as those provided by AeroCourse®.

The Airline Transport Pilot Licence entitles the holder to operate as pilot-in-command or co-pilot of any multi-crew aircraft.

Some of the minimum requirements to obtain the Airline Transport Pilot Licence are:

- 1500 hours total flight experience
- 250 hours of pilot-in-command experience
- Achieve 70% or better on 2 Airline Transport Pilot Licence Written Exams (SAMRA & SARON)
  - \*SAMRA & SARON cannot be written until pilot has 50% of the flying hours required (written exams can be written with less flight hours if you are an active student of an IATPL flight training program)
- Instrument Rating for a Multi-Engine Airplane

## **Integrated Airline Transport Pilot Licence (IATPL)**

The Integrated Airline Transport Pilot Licence is a version of the ATPL only possible by completing a structured training program approved by Transport Canada. An Integrated ATPL program is intended to prepare students for a career as an airline pilot and provides them with advanced theoretical and practical aviation knowledge that would otherwise require years in the industry to acquire.

With the additional classroom instruction and as a Transport Canada approved program, IATPL students are permitted to write their 2 Airline Transport Pilot Licence Written Exams (SAMRA & SARON), as opposed to waiting the years required to meet the minimum prerequisites.

To help fast-track student careers, IATPL programs incorporate professional airline simulator training and multi-crew procedures that are essential throughout the industry. In addition, successful graduates can be offered the opportunity to apply directly to airlines such as *Jazz* and *Porter* for their direct entry or mentorship programs.

*\*The IATPL program must be applied for towards the beginning of flight training as it is a controlled program. A student may transition to this program from the self-paced program if they have their PPL or less flight experience however a student cannot switch to this licensing path if they are near the end of their training. For advice about transitioning programs, please reach out to [admissions@bramfly.com](mailto:admissions@bramfly.com)\**

Good Luck and Happy Flying!

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