



# INSTRUMENT REGULATIONS

## PART 1 - *The Pilot*

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### Instrument Time

§ 61.51g (1) - A person may log instrument time only for that flight time when the person operates the aircraft solely by reference to instruments under actual or simulated instrument flight conditions.

§ 61.51g (2) - An authorized instructor may log instrument time when conducting instrument flight instruction in actual instrument conditions.

### Logging Instrument Time

§ 61.51 g(3i-ii)(4)

- Location and type of each approach
- Safety pilot name (if required)
- Flight simulator used
  - If used for certificate or rating, add Instructor name and number
  - If instrument rated and used for currency, no instructor needed
- Instructors may log all instrument time while instructing in actual instrument weather conditions

### Logging Approaches

§ 61.51 g(3i-ii)(4)

- Location and type of each approach
- Safety pilot name (if required)

### To act as PIC under IFR

- Current medical certificate
- Current Instrument Rating (or unrestricted ATP)

*Note: This also applies to flying in VFR conditions but on an IFR flight plan*

### Safety Pilot

- Must have at least a Private Pilot Certificate  
*(does not have to be current)*
- Must be rated in the same category and class aircraft
- Must have a current medical
- Aircraft must have dual controls
- Must have adequate visibility of front and each side of the aircraft

### Instrument Rating Required

- When acting as PIC under IFR weather conditions § 61.3
- When carrying passengers for compensation or hire on cross-country flights in excess of 50 NM or at night § 61.133
- Flight in Class A airspace § 91.135
- Flight in Special VFR between sunset and sunrise § 91.157

## Instrument Currency

§ 61.57(c)

6 Months

- Conducted 6 Instrument Approaches
- Intercepted and tracked courses using navigation systems
- Performed holding procedures

*Note: The FAA doesn't specify how many holds. Just more than one.*

These can be completed in an approved FFS, ATD, or FTD provided the device is of the same category and type aircraft and the pilot performs them in simulated instrument conditions. A flight instructor is not required.

Additional 6 Months

Additional time to accomplish the 3 tasks with...

- A safety pilot in simulated instrument conditions
- A CFI or examiner

### Helpful Tip

Use the acronym "**6 HITS**" to remember the IFR recency requirements

**6** - 6 Instrument Approaches

**H** - Holding procedures

**I** - Intercepted a course

**T** - Tracked a course

**S** - Using navigational systems

IPC Required

### Instrument Proficiency Check

- Administered by a CFII, examiner, or FAA approved official
- Some IPC tasks can be conducted in an FTD or ATD