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EAA QUICK GUIDE

The Rule: **Sport Pilot & Light-Sport Aircraft**



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The Sport Pilot Rule

Creates a new student sport pilot certificate for operating any aircraft that meets the definition of a light sport aircraft.

- Creates a new sport pilot certificate for operating any aircraft that meets the definition of a light sport-aircraft (LSA).
- Creates a new sport pilot instructor certificate.
- Requires FAA knowledge and practical (flight) tests.
- Credits ultralight training and experience toward a sport pilot certificate.
- Credits sport pilot flight time toward advanced pilot ratings.
- Requires an FAA third-class medical certificate or a current and valid U.S. driver's license (provided the individual doesn't have an official medical denial or revocation on file with FAA).
- Does not allow carrying passengers for compensation or hire
- Allows sharing ("pro-rata") operating expenses with another pilot.
- Allows day VFR flight only.
- Allow sport pilots to fly production aircraft (standard airworthiness certificate) that meet the definition of a light sport aircraft.

Light Sport Aircraft

- Maximum gross takeoff weight: 1,320 pounds (599 kg.) or 1,430 pounds if float equipped.
- Lighter-than-air LSA maximum gross weight: 660 pounds (300 kg.)
- Maximum stall speed: 45 knots (52 mph)
- Maximum speed in level flight with maximum continuous power: 120 knots (138 mph)
- Two-place maximum (pilot and one passenger)
- Day VFR operation only (unless the aircraft is equipped per FAR 91.209 for night flight and the pilot holds at least a private pilot certificate).
- Single, reciprocating engine only
- Fixed or ground adjustable propeller
- Unpressurized cabin

Fixed landing gear

- Movable landing gear for seaplanes to allow amphibious operation
- Can be manufactured and sold ready-to-fly under special-LSA certification without FAR Part 23 compliance. Aircraft must meet ASTM International consensus standards. Aircraft under this certification may be used for sport and recreation, flight training, and aircraft rental.
- Kit and plans-built aircraft can be registered as experimental-LSA. These aircraft may be used only for recreation and flight instruction for the owner.
- Kit or plans-built craft operating as an ultralight trainer can be registered as an experimental-LSA until August 31, 2007.
- Will have FAA registration, N-number.
- LSA category and class include: Airplane (Land/Sea), Powered Parachute, Weight-Shift-Control (Trike Land/Sea), Glider, Gyroplane, and Lighter-Than-Air (Airship and Balloon).
- U.S. or foreign manufacture of light sport aircraft is authorized.

Sport Pilot Certificate

- To earn a sport pilot certificate, you must:
- Be at least 17 years old (16 for glider or balloon)
- Hold a current FAA third-class medical certificate or state driver's license.
- Successfully pass an FAA sport pilot knowledge test
 Successfully pass a FAA sport pilot practical (flight) test
- The minimum required training time for the different light sport aircraft categories are:
- Airplane: 20 hours
- Powered Parachute: 12 hours
- Weight-Shift-Controlled (Trikes): 20 hours
- Glider: 10 hours
- Rotorcraft (gyroplane only): 20 hours
- Lighter-Than-Air: 20 hours (airship) or 7 hours (balloon)

Sport Pilot Instructors

New sport pilot flight and ground instructor certificates.
 Allows instructors to use FAA ultralight training exemp-

tion experience.

- Allows conversion to sport pilot instructor status for ultralight instructors who were properly registered on or before September 1, 2004.
- Allows current CFIs to train sport pilots.

Repairmen Certificates

The new FAA repairmen certificate ratings are Maintenance, which allows their holders to maintain and inspect LSA, and Inspection, which authorizes LSA owners to perform the annual condition inspection on their light sport aircraft. To earn these ratings:

- Inspection—complete a 16-hour course on the inspection requirements of the particular class of light sport aircraft
- Maintenance—complete a course on the maintenance requirements: airplanes, 120 hours; weight shift and powered parachute, 104 hours; glider and lighter-than-air, 80 hours.

LSA Maintenance Options

Special-LSA maintenance and all inspections can be completed by:

- An FAA airframe and powerplant mechanics (A&P)
- An FAA authorized repair station
- A repairman (light-sport aircraft) with a maintenance rating
- A certificated pilot may perform preventative maintenance.

Experimental-LSA can be maintained by anyone, but annual condition inspections must be performed by:

- A repairman with a (LSA) maintenance or inspection rating
- 🔳 An A&P
- \blacksquare An FAA authorized repair station

