

Federal Aviation Agency



AC NO : 60-1

AIRMEN

EFFECTIVE :

6/12/63


SUBJECT : KNOW YOUR AIRCRAFT

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1. **PURPOSE.** To call to the attention of all pilots certain potential hazards associated with operation of unfamiliar aircraft and to recommend certain good operating practices.
 2. **BACKGROUND.** The complexity of modern aircraft demands a thorough familiarization checkout for pilots who change from one aircraft to another. Previous flying experience is not enough. Full pilot proficiency in any aircraft requires, in addition to normal operating procedures and techniques, a complete understanding of such items as preflight inspection, weights, speeds, operating limitations and emergency procedures.
 3. **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES.** The following safe operating practices are strongly recommended when checking out or familiarizing yourself with a strange aircraft:
 - a. Study the aircraft Flight Operations Manual and the Pilot's Operating Handbook. If a Manual or a Handbook is not available (sometimes the case in older aircraft), obtain all pertinent data applicable to the particular aircraft.
 - b. Know the various systems of the aircraft, i.e., fuel system, lubrication, hydraulic, electrical, control, and brake systems.
 - c. Be able to use the approved loading schedule, weight and balance information, and learn the performance characteristics associated with different loading conditions contained in the takeoff, cruise, and landing charts.
 - d. Be certain that you are familiar with emergency procedures, range vs. endurance, and altitude vs. horsepower capabilities of your aircraft.
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- e. Study the control, instrument and radio layouts so that, upon checklist reference, you can immediately touch the instrument or control with your eyes closed.
- f. Obtain the services of a qualified check pilot and heed his recommendations with regard to your abilities, techniques, and procedures.
- g. Practice stalls and slow-flight in various configurations, gear and flaps up and down, and flaps at various intermediate settings.
- h. Memorize the various significant speeds recommended by the aircraft manufacturer, such as:
 - Best rate-of-climb speed.
 - Best angle-of-climb speed.
 - Stall speeds in different configurations.
 - Minimum control speed (multi-engine aircraft).
- i. Be familiar with the density altitude chart and the associated performance characteristics of your aircraft.
- j. Practice landings at various airports during your checkout with partial loads and at full gross weight.

These guidelines are designed to help you accomplish a safe and effective checkout and transition to an unfamiliar aircraft. Don't gamble with safety.

K N O W Y O U R A I R C R A F T


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