



Powered Gliders

- What are they?
- What does it take to fly one?

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Topics

- What is a powered glider?
- Types of powered gliders
- What ratings or endorsement are needed?
- Training in a powered glider
- Questions

What is a Powered Glider?

- FAA's definition:
 - Nothing listed in 14 CFR Part 1 Definitions and Abbreviations
- Where might one find a definition?
 - AC 21.27-2A (1993):

Type Certification - - Fixed Wing Gliders (Sailplanes), Including Powered Gliders (This AC states three requirements for certification as a powered glider. First, it must be either single or two-place (no double back seats allowed). Next, it is limited to a maximum gross weight of 850 kg or 1874 lbs. Finally, it must have a weight/span loading maximum of .62 lbs/square foot.)

Type of Powered Gliders

- Self-launch such as a:

Nimbus 4DM →



← ASH 31 Mi

Type of Powered Gliders

- Self-launch such as a:

Grob 109B →



← Diamond HK 36 TTC

Type of Powered Gliders

- Self-launch such as a:

Stemme S12 →



← Pipistrel Taurus Electro

Type of Powered Gliders

- Self-launch such as a:

LAK 17B FES →



← Phoenix Air USA

Type of Powered Gliders

- Self-launch such as a:

Jonker JS-1 Jet →



← HpH 304 JS Shark

Ratings/Endorsements Needed?

- 14 CFR 61.31 (j)(1)(iii) states:

Additional training required for operating a glider. (1) No person may act as pilot in command of a glider—No person may act as pilot in command of a glider - using self-launch procedures, unless that person has satisfactorily accomplished ground and flight training on self-launch procedures and operations, and has received an endorsement from an authorized instructor who certifies in that pilot's logbook that the pilot has been found proficient in self-launch procedures and operations.

Grandfather clause: The holder of a glider rating issued prior to August 4, 1997, is considered to be in compliance with the training and logbook endorsement requirements of this paragraph for the specific operating privilege for which the holder is already qualified.

Anything special needed for a touring motor glider like a Grob or HK 36?

Ratings/Endorsements Needed?

- Are there any guidelines?

AC 61-94 (1984):

Pilot transition course for self-launching or powered sailplanes (motorgliders)

- 1) *Syllabus "A" Private pilots with an ASEL and Glider rating*
- 2) *Syllabus "B" Private pilot with only a Glider rating*

There is a grandfather clause within the AC that states: "A pilot who holds at least a private pilot certificate with a glider rating and can show by logbook entry that he/she has had at least 5 hours of pilot-in-command experience in a motorglider before January 1, 1985, will be considered to have met the guidelines of this advisory circular."

Training in a Powered Glider

- Many training opportunities exist:
 - Cross-country with/without the engine
 - Off-field landing practice (simulation)
 - Off-field landing site visits
 - General practice on non-soaring days
 - Anything else?

Questions?

YouTube Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMCXzLV-dnc>
(Alpine Soaring in Switzerland – May 2013)

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References

- <http://gliderinsurance.com/Article3.htm>
- https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/advisory_circular/ac_21.17-2a.pdf
- https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/ac61-94.pdf