

Gyrocopter / Gyroplane — Licence & Syllabus Guide

FAA · EASA (national rules) · CAAC | Hong Kong Macau General Aviation — Flight Training | October 2026

The gyroplane (autogyro / gyrocopter, ■■■■■■) is regulated differently by each authority: the **FAA** treats it as a class rating in the rotorcraft category with full Private and Commercial certificates; in **Europe** light gyroplanes fall outside EASA Part-FCL and are licensed nationally (e.g., UK PPL(G), German DULV licence); the **CAAC** includes gyroplanes as a class within CCAR-61 with its own PPL/CPL experience tables. This guide compares the syllabi.

1. Licence overview — side-by-side

Item	FAA (USA)	Europe (national)	CAAC (China)
Regulation basis	14 CFR Part 61 — rotorcraft category, gyroplane class	Reg. (EU) 2018/1139 Annex I excludes light gyroplanes (≤600 kg) from EASA — national licences apply	CCAR-61, rotorcraft category, gyroplane class (■■■■■■)
Licence examples	Private / Commercial Pilot — Gyroplane	UK: PPL(G) · Germany: DULV SPL-T gyroplane licence (Tragschrauber)	PPL ■■■■■■ · CPL ■■■■■■
Minimum age (PPL)	17 (61.103)	UK 17 · Germany 17 (16 for training)	17 (61.123)
Medical	FAA 3rd class	National medical (e.g., UK, per ANO)	CAAC Class II (PPL) / Class I (CPL)
Ground exams	Knowledge test PGP (Private) / CGP (Commercial)	UK: 5 theory exams + FRTOL · Germany: 7 subjects	CAAC computer theory exam (PPL/CPL level)
Practical test	Checkride per FAA-S-8081-15B (Private) / -16B (Commercial)	UK: Practical Flying Test with Gyroplane Examiner · Germany: practical flight test	CAAC ■■■■■ per AC-61 practical test standards
PPL min. hours	40 h (61.109(d)); 35 h via approved course	UK 40 h (≥15 dual, ≥10 supervised solo) · Germany 30 h (≥5 solo)	40 h (61.129 table)
CPL min. hours	150 h (61.129(d))	N/A (national private licences only)	150 h (61.159 table)
Instrument/sim credit (CPL)	2.5 h instrument training; ≤5 h FFS/FTD credit	N/A	5 h instrument; ≤5 h simulator credit



2. FAA — Private Pilot, Gyroplane (61.109(d))

Element	Requirement
Total flight time	40 h minimum as a pilot (35 h via an approved Part 141/142 course)
Dual instruction (20 h)	20 h flight training from an authorized instructor incl.: 3 h cross-country; 3 h night (1 XC > 50 NM total distance, 10 takeoffs and 10 landings to a full stop); 3 h test prep within 2 calendar months of the practical test
Solo (10 h)	10 h solo incl.: 3 h solo cross-country with 10 takeoffs and landings; one solo XC flight of ≥ 100 NM total distance with landings at 3 points and one segment > 25 NM straight-line; 3 takeoffs/landings to full stop at an airport with an operating control tower
Knowledge test	Private Gyroplane (PGP) computer test on the 61.105(b) rotorcraft/gyroplane knowledge areas
Practical test	Per FAA-S-8081-15B (Private PTS, gyroplane): preflight, airport/heliport ops, hovering-type maneuvers n/a, takeoffs/landings, performance maneuvers, go-arounds, navigation, emergency ops

3. FAA — Commercial Pilot, Gyroplane (61.129(d))

Element	Requirement
Total flight time	150 h minimum as a pilot (≤5 h may be in an FFS/FTD)
Powered aircraft	100 h in powered aircraft, of which ≥ 25 h in gyroplanes
PIC time	100 h PIC incl. ≥ 10 h in gyroplanes and 3 h cross-country in gyroplanes
Training (20 h)	On the 61.127(b)(4) areas: 2.5 h instrument control/maneuvering with view-limiting device (aircraft, FFS, FTD or ATD); one 2-h day XC gyroplane flight > 50 NM straight-line; 2 h night training at an airport with 10 takeoffs and 10 full-stop landings; 3 h test prep within 2 calendar months
Solo / PICUS (10 h)	10 h solo or performing PIC duties with an authorized instructor on board, incl.: one XC with landings at ≥ 3 points, one segment ≥ 50 NM straight-line; 5 h night VFR with 10 takeoffs and 10 landings in the traffic pattern
Tests	Commercial Gyroplane (CGP) knowledge test; practical test per FAA-S-8081-16B (Commercial PTS, gyroplane)

4. Europe — national gyroplane licences (EASA exclusion)

Under Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 (Annex I), single- and two-seat gyroplanes up to 600 kg MTOM are excluded from EASA airworthiness and flight-crew licensing, so each National Aviation Authority licenses gyroplanes itself. Two examples:

Country	Framework and requirements
United Kingdom	UK CAA PPL(G): min age 17 (14 dual, 16 solo); ≥ 40 h flight time incl. ≥ 15 h dual and ≥ 10 h supervised solo (1 solo XC landing away); 5 theoretical exams + Flight Radiotelephony Licence (FRTOL); Practical Flying Test with a Gyroplane Examiner (Standards Document 44)
Germany	DULV/DAeC SPL gyroplane licence (Tragschrauber) per LuftPersV §42: min age 17 (16 for training); 30 h minimum on gyroplanes incl. ≥ 5 h solo, dual cross-country navigation, emergency training and 2 solo XC flights > 100 km with intermediate landings; 7-subject theory exam + practical flight test
Other states	France, Italy etc. license gyroplanes under comparable national microlight/gyroplane rules — check the relevant NAA before training

5. CAAC — PPL/CPL gyroplane (CCAR-61 tables)

Element	PPL (61.129 table)	CPL (61.159 table)
Total	40 h	150 h (sim credit ≤ 5 h)
Powered aircraft time	—	100 h (≥ 25 h in gyroplanes)
PIC (■■■)	—	100 h (≥ 10 h gyroplane; 3 h XC)
Dual / skill training	20 h: XC 3 h; night 3 h (10 T/O & landings, XC ≥ 90 km); test prep 3 h; simulator credit < 2.5 h	20 h: instrument 5 h (in aircraft); test prep 3 h
Solo (■■■)	10 h incl. XC 3 h (total ≥ 150 km, one leg ≥ 50 km, 3 full-stop landings)	10 h solo/PIC duties
Extra	Skill/manoeuvre training 10 h	Night XC (2 h VFR, 90 km) within skill training

Figures verified from the official texts (eCFR 14 CFR 61; Reg. (EU) 2018/1139 Annex I; UK CAA Standards Document 44; DULV/LuftPersV; CAAC Flight Standards Training Center CCAR-61 tables) as of October 2026. Applicants should confirm current requirements with the relevant authority before enrolment. Enquiries: info@general-aviation.asia