

Seaplane Rating — Syllabus Guide

FAA · EASA · CAAC | Hong Kong Macau General Aviation — Flight Training | October 2026

The seaplane rating adds water operations to an existing aeroplane certificate or licence: **FAA** ASES/AMES class ratings (airplane, single/multi-engine sea), **EASA** SEP(sea)/MEP(sea) class ratings, and the **CAAC** seaplane class rating (■■■■■). All are add-on ratings with a practical test centred on water operations — no new licence.

1. Rating overview — side-by-side

Item	FAA (ASES/AMES)	EASA (SEP(sea))	CAAC (■■■■■)
Regulation basis	14 CFR 61.63(c) — additional class rating	Part-FCL Subpart H — single-engine piston class rating, sea	CCAR-61 ■61.81(c)■ — add-on class rating
Knowledge test	Not required when adding the sea class to an existing airplane certificate (61.63(c)(4))	No national written exam; ATO course theory	Not required when adding within the airplane category (61.81(c)(4))
Minimum hours	None prescribed for the add-on — training to proficiency	Course at an ATO; no hour minimum in Part-FCL (skill test based)	Training to proficiency per approved syllabus
Practical test	Checkride per the applicable ACS with seaplane-specific tasks	Skill test per Appendix 9 to Part-FCL (single-pilot aeroplane)	■■■■■ per CAAC practical test standards
Validity	Does not expire (normal flight review rules)	24 months (FCL.740(a)(1) — single-pilot single-engine class ratings)	Per CCAR-61 rating validity rules



2. FAA — seaplane class rating add-on

Element	Requirement
Knowledge test	Exempt when adding the sea class rating to an existing airplane certificate (61.63(c)(4))
Flight training	No minimum hours prescribed (61.63(c)(3)) — train to proficiency and receive an instructor endorsement on the seaplane areas of operation
Practical test	Per the applicable Airman Certification Standards with the seaplane elements, incl.: glassy and rough water takeoffs and landings; step taxi; sailing; docking and mooring; water rudders; porpoising and skip bounce recovery; idle, plow and step taxi/run-up
Notes	Certificated for both land and sea operations when holding the land class too; commercial seaplane privileges follow the base licence level

3. EASA — SEP(sea) class rating (Part-FCL Subpart H)

Element	Requirement
Issue	Training at an ATO on the SEP(sea) class, followed by a skill test in the relevant class or an FSTD, per Appendix 9 to Part-FCL
Privileges	Single-pilot single-engine piston aeroplane — sea (floatplane/amphibian) operations; combined with SEP(land) covers both classes
Validity	24 months (FCL.740(a)(1))
Revalidation	FCL.740.A(b): proficiency check with an examiner within the 3 months before expiry, or 12 h flight time in the class in the 12 months before expiry incl. 6 h as PIC, 12 takeoffs and 12 landings, plus 1 h refresher training (unless exempt via another rating proficiency check)
Land + sea combined	Holders of SEP(land) and SEP(sea) may revalidate both together: at least 1 h of the PIC time and 6 of the 12 takeoffs/landings in each class (FCL.740.A(b)(4))

4. CAAC — ■■■■■■ (CCAR-61)

Element	Requirement
Add-on rule	Per ■61.81(c)■: adding the seaplane class within the airplane category requires flight training, experience, instructor endorsements and a pass in the practical test — no additional theory exam at the same licence level
Practical test	Per the CAAC practical test standards, with water operations: glassy/rough-water takeoffs and landings, step taxi, sailing, docking and mooring, water-rudder use
Notes	Seaplane privileges are exercised at the licence level held (PPL/CPL); commercial water work per the applicable operational approval

Figures verified from the official texts (eCFR 14 CFR 61.63; UK-retained Reg. 1178/2011 Part-FCL FCL.740/FCL.740.A and Appendix 9; CAAC CCAR-61 ■61.81(c)■) as of October 2026. Applicants should confirm current requirements with the relevant authority before enrolment. Enquiries: info@general-aviation.asia