

# Logging time in a simulator

## Introduction

While you are free to log time you spend in an approved simulator or aviation training device in your logbook, the number of hours that can be credited for certification, and the way those hours must be logged, are prescribed by Title 14 CFR Part 61 and Advisory Circular 61-136B.

This document is only a summary. If you have questions about the regulations or related FAA guidance, please consult a flight instructor or Flight Standards District Office (FSDO).

## Simulator approval by FAA

FAR part 61.4 requires that simulators and aviation training devices be approved by the FAA Administrator. The Redbird FMX and Elite RC-1 are approved as “Advanced Aviation Training Devices” as permitted under Part 61.4(c). The approval letters are posted in the simulator room. Downloadable copies of these approval letters are available on the EAA 292 website.

Some advice: If you used a simulator for any required training or aeronautical experience, have a copy of the approval letter for any simulators or aviation training devices you used (for required training or experience) available for inspection when presenting your logbook for a check ride.

## Logbook entry requirements

FAR Part 61.51 (b) and AC 61-136B Appendix D.3 contain detailed information on how to fill out logbook entries when logging time in a simulator or aviation training device. Follow those directions exactly.

## Certification, endorsements, and proficiency

FAR Part 61, AC 61-136B, and FAA-S-ACS-8B discuss using aviation training devices for:

- Complex endorsement: § 61.31 (e)
- High-performance endorsement: § 61.31 (f)
- Training time for certificate or rating: § 61.51 (h)
- Instrument time for certificate or rating: § 61.51 (g) (4)
- Instrument time for recency of experience: § 61.51 (g) (5) and § 61.57 (c)
- Instrument proficiency check: § 61.57 (d) and FAA-S-ACS-8B (but see Note [1] below)

While there are no limits on the amount of training accomplished and logged in aviation training devices, Part 61 caps the amount of time that can be credited for certification purposes:

- 2.5 hours for private pilot: § 61.109 (k) (1)
- 10 hours for instrument rating: § 61.65 (i)
- 50 hours for commercial pilot: § 61.129 (i)
- 25 hours (instrument time only) for ATP: § 61.159 (a) (4)

[1] The FAA-S-ACS-8B tasks (VI) (D) *Circling Approach* and (VI) (E) *Landing from an Instrument Approach* cannot be demonstrated in an aviation training device (such as Redbird or Elite).