

THE FLYING COMPANION'S CERTIFICATE COURSE

INTRODUCTION

This Syllabus and Guide to the AOPA Flying Companion's Course has been constructed to enable those who fly regularly with a Private Pilot Licence (PPL) holder to be more involved in the flights and, therefore, more confident when flying as passengers.

Although the course does not in itself lead to a pilot's licence it must be conducted by a qualified Flight Instructor. It is appreciated that some flying companions may wish to continue training for the PPL and the hours flown on the course may be counted towards that qualification. However, it should be noted that the syllabus is an abridged version of the early flight exercises and ground studies for the PPL and covers only parts of the training requirements for the JAR-FCL PPL.

Similarly, those wishing to assist with the operation of the radio on a private flight would need to hold a Radiotelephony Licence and their Instructor will be able to advise how to achieve this. The training for this AOPA Certificate will not necessarily comply with the standard procedures and phraseology required by the applicant for a Radiotelephony Licence.

The purpose of this publication is to give guidance to those who wish to obtain the AOPA Flying Companion's Certificate. The information it contains will also be needed by those Flight Training Organisations, Registered Training Facilities and Instructors who intend to supervise this training.

A copy of the syllabus should be used as a record to show that all parts of the course have been satisfactorily completed prior to application for the Certificate. A signature block is incorporated after each relevant section for the Instructor to sign when it has been completed.

AOPA may require to see this completed syllabus before issuing the Flying Companion's Course Certificate.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

AOPA has designed this syllabus of instruction to increase the enjoyment, participation and confidence in flying of those who regularly accompany private pilots.

The course of training is shown on the following pages. The course culminates in a simulated emergency with recovery to an appropriate airfield and a safe landing. This is **not** conducted as a test and use may be made of the Emergency Service if this is available.

Satisfactory completion of the course will enable the candidate to obtain the Flying Companion's Certificate.

FLYING TRAINING

The course consists of a minimum of eight hours dual flying with a qualified Flight Instructor conducted within a period of 12 months. This would normally be undertaken in the type of aircraft regularly flown with the student taking control from the appropriate passenger seat.

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE TRAINING

The theoretical knowledge section of the course will consist of a minimum of ten hours of briefing/lectures given by a Flight Instructor at a level appropriate to the requirements of the flight training syllabus.

Note: Due to the content of the course and the minimum number of flying hours required, it is particularly important that adequate theoretical knowledge instruction be given to the candidate prior to the instruction in the air.

PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN THE CERTIFICATE

The application form for the issue of the certificate on page 6 of this syllabus must be completed by the candidate and the instructor(s) conducting the course. A fee of £20 will have to be paid to AOPA to cover the cost of administering the issue of the certificate.

The completed application form, together with the appropriate fee, should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, AOPA, 50a Cambridge Street, London, SW1V 4QQ. Provided that the necessary requirements are met the candidate will be issued with the AOPA Flying Companion's Certificate.

PRIMARY REFERENCE MATERIAL

“The Safety Pilot's Training Manual” – D.Bruford, Airlife Publishing Ltd

“Pinch-Hitter Course Training Manual” – AOPA Air Safety Foundation

Aircraft systems that need to be monitored Fuel Radio Engine Directional Indicator Altimeter	
How to use the radio and transponder Operation of radio Operation of transponder Changing frequency Callsign; height; heading; squawk In Emergency; Use of 121.5 MHz	
How circuits are flown at an airfield Layout of apron, taxiways and runways Circuit pattern Pre-landing checks Approach and landing Going around Joining the circuit	
How to understand the aeronautical map Topography Types of airspace Symbols	
How to use the Emergency Services Distress & Diversion Use of radio	

FLIGHT EXERCISES

	Instructor's Name and Signature
Cockpit familiarisation Use of Radio	
How to use the controls in flight Primary effects of controls Trim Effects of power Carburettor Heat; Mixture Flaps Autopilot* Retractable undercarriage* * where appropriate to type flown	
How to fly straight and level At cruise speed At approach speed	

<p>How to climb, descend and turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruise climb Powered descent Use of flap in descent 20° Banked turns on to specified headings 	
<p>How to make a safe landing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flight in the circuit Flying the approach Landing Going around 	
<p>How to read an aeronautical map in the air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant topographical features 	
<p>How to deal with an unexpected emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of emergency services to locate aircraft How to follow radio instructions to reach a suitable airfield 	
<p>Simulated emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking control of the aircraft Securing passengers Use of radio to obtain emergency assistance Providing information to emergency service Following instructions to reach airfield Making a safe landing 	

APPLICATION FOR THE AOPA FLYING COMPANION'S CERTIFICATE

Candidate's Full Name (Block Capitals)

Address

.....

Contact Telephone No.

AOPA Membership No. (if applicable)

THIS FORM SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION
FEE OF £20.

To be completed by the Instructor who has given the training.

Name of Training Organisation (as applicable)

.....

Address

.....

Telephone No.

Course commenced Course completed

I certify that the above named candidate has received a minimum of 8 hours flying instruction and 10 hours of ground training in accordance with the requirements of the AOPA Syllabus for the Flying Companion's Certificate and has satisfactorily completed the Course within a period of twelve months.

Instructor's Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Licence No.Signature

AOPA Office Use Only YES NO

Fee Received

Recommended for Issue Letter sent

Signed Date

