

Night Rating (VFR-N)

Additional qualification for night flying – EASA Part-FCL

Overview

The **Night Rating (VFR-N)** allows holders of a LAPL(A)* or PPL(A) to fly **at night under VFR** as Pilot-in-Command or with passengers (according to the privileges of their licence). It is an essential step toward improving situational awareness, decision-making, and flight management in low-visibility environments.

The Night Rating is also a prerequisite for certain advanced training programmes, such as the **Instrument Rating (IR)**.

*under certain pre-requisite.

Training objectives

- Learn to operate an aircraft safely during nighttime conditions.
 - Acquire specific techniques for night navigation, approaches, landing, and overall flight management.
 - Understand the physiological and perceptual challenges related to night flying.
 - Build confidence in handling reduced visual cues and increased cockpit workload.
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Privileges of the rating

When added to a PPL(A) or LAPL(A)*, the Night Rating allows the pilot to:

- Conduct **VFR flights at night** as Pilot-in-Command.
- Carry passengers within the privileges of the underlying licence.
- Perform cross-country and local night flights outside the aerodrome circuit.

*Note: The Night Rating may be added to a LAPL(A) only under French national privileges (FCL.810 & AMC), not across all EASA states.

Entry requirements

- Hold a valid **PPL(A)** or **LAPL(A)** with a valid class rating .
 - Have recent and sufficient VFR day flying skills (as assessed by an instructor).
 - Hold a valid **LAPL or Class 2 medical certificate**.
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Training programme

In accordance with **FCL.810**, the course includes a minimum of **5 hours of night flight training**, including:

1. Flight training

- **3 hours of dual instruction**, including:
 - Local night flying
 - Night navigation exercises
 - Night-specific emergency procedures
 - Approaches and landings at night
 - **1 hour of solo cross-country flight**, consisting of:
 - A navigation flight of at least **50 km** (27 NM)
 - With **one full-stop landing** at another aerodrome
 - **5 solo take-offs and 5 solo full-stop landings** at night.
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2. Ground training

The ground course covers all aspects of night flight operations, including:

- Physiology and visual adaptation
 - Sensory illusions and human factors
 - Workload management and situational awareness
 - Airfield and aircraft lighting systems
 - Aircraft performance and limitations
 - Night operational procedures
 - Night meteorology
 - Threat and Error Management (TEM)
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Training duration

Depending on weather and availability:

- **1 to 2 weeks** in good conditions
 - Up to **1 month** in less favourable weather periods
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Validation

There is **no formal skill test** for the Night Rating.

The rating is issued once:

- All training requirements are completed, and
 - The instructor confirms that the pilot is **competent to fly at night safely**.
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Further training opportunities

After completing the Night Rating, pilots often continue with:

- **Instrument Rating (IR / CB-IR)**
- **CPL(A)**