Do I need a Flight Review or IPC?

A quick guide for certificated airplane pilots. Use page 2 to prepare for a conversation with your instructor. This is not an endorsement or a determination that you are legal to fly.

01 Start with your flight review

Before acting as PIC, most pilots need a satisfactory flight review within the preceding **24 calendar months**, unless a qualifying alternative applies. Certain practical tests, proficiency checks or a completed WINGS phase can satisfy this requirement. Confirm the event and logbook entry with your instructor.

A standard review includes at least **one hour of ground and one hour of flight training**. More time may be needed for proficiency. It does not by itself establish instrument or passenger currency.

02 Check your instrument experience

The usual airplane rule looks at the **six calendar months preceding the month of flight**: six instrument approaches, holding procedures and tasks, and intercepting and tracking courses, performed and logged under qualifying conditions.

If those requirements are not met, do not act as PIC under IFR or in weather below VFR minimums. Within the first six calendar months after losing currency, qualifying practice may restore it. After more than six calendar months out of currency, an **IPC is generally required**. Ask a CFII to verify your timeline.

03 Choose a useful next step

Flight review due or uncertain? Bring your endorsements and test/WINGS records.
Instrument currency unclear? Bring your approach, hold and tracking records.
Current but rusty? A refresher can build confidence before your next trip.

An IPC does not automatically replace a flight review. A simulator refresher is not a complete IPC. AFI can use its PFC CRX MAX for approved IPC portions; circling and landing tasks require aircraft time or an appropriately approved full-flight simulator.

View packages and ask AFI to review your logbook

References: 14 CFR 61.56; 14 CFR 61.57; FAA AC 61-98E. Prepared November 2026. Check current rules, device authorizations and your individual circumstances. Other PIC requirements still apply.

AFI

FILL DIGITALLY OR PRINT

Your pilot readiness worksheet

Use your logbook. Leave uncertain items blank and bring them to your instructor. Information entered here stays in your PDF; it is not automatically sent to AFI.

Name / preferred campus (optional)

Aircraft / certificates & ratings / type of flying planned

Last flight review: date and endorsement location

Qualifying practical test, proficiency check or WINGS phase: event and date

Last IPC / month you last met instrument-currency requirements (if known)

Recent approaches, holding and tracking: dates, aircraft/device and logbook pages

Confidence, skills to refresh and questions for your instructor

Bring: logbook, pilot certificate, relevant endorsements/test records and applicable medical documentation. Ask about passenger currency and aircraft-specific requirements too.

Choose a session or talk with AFI

Flight Review $325: 1 hour ground + 1 hour aircraft instruction.
IPCs: hourly rates. **Simulator Instrument Refresher $250:** 1 hour ground + 1 hour instructed simulator time. Additional time is billed hourly; completion depends on proficiency. Current details at the link above.