

	SAAA CONTROLLED DOCUMENT	
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## Information Paper

# Convert RPC to CASA RPL

This information paper provides guidance to persons who would like to know about converting an RPC (Recreational Pilot Certificate) to a CASA RPL (Recreational Pilot Licence).

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

CASA has made it possible in recent years to convert from a **Recreational Pilot Certificate** to a CASA issued **Recreational Pilot Licence**. An RPL (or higher licence) is required to fly a **VH** registered aircraft.

### 2. WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

Reasons may be numerous and vary. Some may be:

- Desire to fly your Aero Club's Cessna 172 or Piper Warrior.
- Desire to fly a friend's VH registered aircraft
- Desire to fly aerobatics
- Desire to carry more than one passenger
- Desire to fly heavier aircraft
- Desire to fly in Controlled Airspace (even in some RAAus aircraft)
- Desire to fly when visiting overseas (subject to individual country requirements)
- Desire to advance to NVFR or IFR
- Desire to advance to multi-engine aircraft
- Desire to advance to or add on other ratings or endorsements

### 3. CASA ARN (AVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER) REQUIRED:

CASA requires all those who have dealings with them to have an ARN – Aviation Reference Number. This is really *step one* if you do not already have an ARN with CASA.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/individual-licensing/aviation-reference-numbers>

[Form 1162 - Aviation Reference Number \(ARN\) \(casa.gov.au\)](#)

There is no fee payable for this.



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#### 4. CASA MEDICAL CERTIFICATE REQUIRED:

VH aircraft can only be flown by the holder of a CASA Medical Certificate. Your options are:

- **Basic Class 2**, issued by any General Practitioner (doctor). The medical standard is exactly the same as the commercial driver standard (Austroads). Can be issued by your GP. CASA has information available for you and your GP about this process. <https://austrroads.com.au/publications/assessing-fitness-to-drive/ap-g56>
- **Class 2 (private)**, (or Class 1 commercial) issued by a CASA accredited DAME (Designated Aviation Medical Examiner). CASA and DAME fees apply.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/avmed/pilots-and-air-traffic-controllers>

Relevant Medical Standards are freely found in CASA CASR Volume 2, Part 67.

For example, **CASR 67.155 Criteria for medical standard 2** applies to an applicant for a Class 2 medical certificate. You can pre-read up to see if there might be anything listed there that you might have concerns about passing. PLEASE discuss any concerns with your DAME before just throwing in the towel, you may be pleasantly surprised.

A cautionary note though: CASA Aviation Medical branch (AVMED) have earned the unfortunate reputation of ignoring DAME and other expert medical advice and requesting, requiring or demanding often quite onerous and unnecessary medical tests on otherwise perfectly healthy people. Often such demands are signed by someone naming themselves as “*medical assessor*”, not someone giving their qualifications such as “*Doctor Joe Person MBBS Bmed (etc), Medical Assessor.*”

#### 5. ASIC – AVIATION SECURITY IDENTIFICATION CARD OR AVID – AVIATION IDENTIFICATION

The requirement for this “security/identity check” is mentioned in CASA Application Form 61-RTX. This **is not** a CASA thing, it is a Department of Home Affairs thing, brought on by the events of 9-11 in USA.

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/transport-security/identity/asic-and-msic-identification-cards>

CASA has some information also:

<https://www.casa.gov.au/licences-and-certification/individual-licensing/aviation-security-requirements-pilots>

An ASIC is valid for 2 years while an AVID is valid for 5 years. **An ASIC** must be displayed on you when you are in or on a secure area of some airports such as ones that have airline flights coming and going. Yes, most major regional city airports are named as “secure airports”.

ASIC issuing bodies: (fees apply)

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/transport-security/identity/issuing-bodies/asic>



## 6. CASA ELP – (ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY) OR AVIATION ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

The requirement for this is mentioned in CASA Application Form 61-RTX. It assumes you do indeed want a flight radio endorsement on your new licence. Normally, someone at your flight training school will be able to do this, perhaps the Chief Flying Instructor or another staff member, otherwise, they will know who you need to contact.

Yes, it is silly that if your only spoken language is English and you've been doing it all your life, that means nothing to getting an exemption from this. The assessment should be no problem at all, we believe it is just about basic conversational English. It is not (or should not be) a test of aviation terminology or knowledge.

A professional Aviation English Language assessor known to the author of this information paper described it well, and like this – “*Call it a conversation, the content of the conversation is really irrelevant. It could be about the weather, cats, shoelaces, whatever. You may be asked to talk about something, or answer some questions (and the actual answer does not even have to be correct either!) It's about the conversation – do you understand and can you converse in English?*” Just chalk it up as one of those things, don't sweat it, there's plenty more important things to worry about in life. Try fight it? No. It's not a battle you will win.

## 7. CASA FORM 61-RTX – RECREATIONAL PILOT LICENCE APPLICATION

<https://www.casa.gov.au/sites/default/files/application-recreational-pilot-licence-form-61-1rtx.pdf>

**Getting** the CASA RPL is primarily a paperwork exercise. **Using** the RPL is a completely different matter. You **may** have to undertake a Flight Review with a CASA approved flight training school **before** you can use your licence. You may also need extra flight training before the flight review, for example, if you have never flown anything like a Cessna 172 before.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/regulations-and-policy/standard-page/flight-reviews>

Contact your local CASA approved flight training school for further information, they should be well familiar with the process by now and will probably have already helped people with this.

## 8. WHAT IS ALL THIS GOING TO COST ME?

*(Prices subject to change, not all items may have been listed here)*

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
CASA ARN Application (if you do not have one already)	\$NIL
CASA fee for Basic Class 2 Medical Certificate issue <b>OR</b>	\$10.00?
CASA fee for Class 2 Medical Certificate issue by 'DAME 2'	\$ nil
CASA fee for Class 2 Medical Certificate issue by CASA	\$75.00
DOCTOR or DAME appointment/examination fee	\$ unknown - varies
Specialist medical appointments (if required)	\$ unknown
ASIC application	\$ unknown - varies
CASA ESL assessment	\$ unknown
CASA RPC to RPL application Form 61-RTX fee	\$50.00
Training and flight review with CASA approved flight training school	\$ unknown - varies