

	RECREATION AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SOUTH AFRICA	RAASA Postnet Suite #118 Private Bag X1037 Germiston 1400
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LICENSING

Effective date: 20 September 2009

The Commissioner has published an **URGENT** notice regarding the booking of “**SOLO**” hours by student pilots. This notice became necessary after investigations revealed that a number of schools were sending student pilots on solo training flight with an instructor or a safety pilot on board. This practice is a direct violation of Civil Aviation regulations, notwithstanding the intentions of the school to increase the safety of the flight by having a safety pilot on board. The requirement for a pilot to be awarded a PPL/NPL is that he/she shall have flown at least 15 hours “solo” as per the regulations. The definition of “solo” even though not included in the regulations is “**as the sole occupant of the aircraft**”

Recent investigations have revealed a serious lack of oversight by the appointed responsible persons at a number of ATO's. These investigations revealed the following:

- Students were flying their solo flights with another pilot/instructor in the aircraft.
- Both the student and the other pilot were booking solo/dual hours
- Students doing hour building flights have been booking double the time flown, each booking the same time as PIC
- Students making false entries in the logbooks to bring their solo hours up to 15 hours or to meet the Commercial pilot license hour's requirements.
- Students not completing their Navigation requirements or Navigation test.
- Students & Instructors not completing the required dual and solo flights into and out of Controlled airports.

The SACAA has been taking legal action against these schools as well as the individual pilots who have been in non compliance and/or falsely recording hours.

Schools and clubs are reminded that the person's assigned responsibilities are legally bound by any approvals or certifications they make as being correct. Instructors have been blindly signing student's logbooks and test forms as being a true reflection of the hours flown without verifying that the student's hours as indicted in the logbook are correct.

The SACAA will be conducting random checks on documentation to ensure compliance with the regulations. Any SPL student that has applied for and been issued a PPL/NPL having not flown the required 15 hours solo is in possession of a fraudulently obtained license and may not exercise any of the privileges associated with the license.

ALL ATO's are to conduct audits on their training documentation and to correct any deficiencies found during these audits. The CAA & RAASA is to be advised of any students who have obtained PPL's/NPL's without having flown the required 15 hours and any hours flown solo with another pilot in the aircraft are to be cancelled in the students logbooks and the required remedial training conducted to correct the errors.

Legal action shall be taken against any Schools, students and or PPL/NPL pilots fraudulently recorded any flying hours.

RECREATION AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.