

Can I still fly by myself if my flight review has expired?

Two things are necessary for a certificated pilot to act as Pilot in Command (PIC) of an aircraft even if they are flying alone; a current flight review and a valid medical qualification.

To fly with or without passengers, your most recent flight review must have been completed and endorsed within the 24 calendar months of the month before the date of the flight. This means that whatever day of the month you completed your last flight review, it will expire at the end of the same month 24 months later. After this date you may not act as pilot in command, even when flying alone.

Example: If I want to fly on May 26th, 2023, I must have completed a flight review on or after May 1st, 2021.

There are a few alternatives to a flight review, but the 24 calendar month rule remains the same. You may complete a pilot proficiency check or a practical test for an additional certificate or rating with an examiner. Also, a completed phase of an FAA-sponsored pilot proficiency program, such as WINGS, satisfies the requirement for a flight review.

Other training and endorsements may be combined with a flight review, such as tail wheel, or complex endorsements. In these situations you must receive both the endorsements; one for the specialized training and a separate one for the flight review.

You also cannot act as pilot in command without a valid medical qualification. There are several options that meet this requirement. You can get a first, second or third class FAA medical certificate from an Aeromedical Examiner (AME), or you can follow the requirements for BasicMed (14CFR Part 68). There is an exception to this rule for Sport Pilots who can fly light sport airplanes with a current and valid U.S. driver's license.

For the full details of the Flight Review regulation, see 14 CFR 61.56, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/14/61.56>.

You can find more information about FAA BasicMed at https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/airmen_certification/basic_med/

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