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OD 04/24 – 50km flight requirement for Instructors FAQ

1. *Why is this 50km cross country flight requirement important?*

A. To ensure safe and capable independent soaring, we expect instructors and coaches to meet the GPC baseline standards, which include the ability to demonstrate autonomous cross-country flight. The 50km cross-country achievement, while modest, is a meaningful step that is well within reach for most pilots. Our goal is to foster collaboration between instructors and coaches. These roles bring complementary skills and qualifications. For all trainers, the baseline standard is intended to be Silver Coach and AEI or L1, underpinned by the GPC qualifications developed through our Integrated Training Package (ITP). By raising the quality of training and providing clear pathways for development, we aim to inspire and support our members to achieve higher aspirations and enjoy more adventurous flying experiences. As we work to standardise and enhance training, we remain committed to growing and enriching the sport of gliding for everyone. It's important to note that the 50km achievement reflects a legacy requirement from earlier frameworks, predating Part 149 ASAO approval, as CASA does not recognise FAI badges.

2. *Are existing instructors required to do a 50km flight if they have not completed one in the past?*

A. No. The requirement applies to instructor ratings after the effective date of OD 4/24.

3. *Our location is not suitable for cross country flights, how can we meet this requirement?*

A. The Operations Panel considered this issue at length. A GPC is a requirement for training to be an instructor. Unit 41, Demonstrated cross country capability, is done with a pilot and a Silver Coach. Pilots can and do travel to other locations to complete this Unit or to complete parts of the FAI Silver C Badge. The Operations Panel considered this to be an important part of a pilot's development.

4. *Do I have to do a 50km flight each year?*

A. No. This is a once off. It must be done before or with 12 months after receiving your instructor rating.

5. *Is completion of the 50km flight for the Silver C acceptable?*

A. Yes, and is the preferred method.

6. *I have completed the Silver C distance requirement will that count, or do I have to do it again?*

A. Yes, it counts, no need to do it again.

7. *I do not have an instructor rating, will I be required to complete the 50km flight, before or within twelve months after receiving my rating?*

A. Yes.

8. *I am an AEI upgrading to a Level 1, or I am a Level 1 upgrading to a Level 2, will I be required to complete the 50km flight, before or within twelve months after receiving my rating?*

A. Yes.

9. *I have not had the opportunity to complete my 50km flight within the 12 months after receiving my new instructor rating, what happens?*

A. You will revert to the rating you had before the instructor course.

Dave Boulter

EMO , Gliding Australia (20/11/2024)