

## Student Pilot Limitations

After you have proven to your instructor that you can safely handle the aircraft, you have obtained your plastic Student Pilot Certificate from the FAA, and you have in your pocket your FAA Medical Certificate, it will be time for you to Solo. At first your solo flights will be in the airport pattern, then the practice area, and on to some cross country flights as you gain more experience. Solo flight means you will be the sole occupant in the aircraft. During this solo flight you have some limitations placed on what you are allowed to do. Here is a sampling of many of them.

**Make and Model:** You are limited to the make and model you were trained for and your instructor signed on your logbook endorsement. If you were signed off for solo in a Cessna 172 means that's the only airplane you can fly until you have received training and gotten another endorsement for that other make and model. You will also need these endorsements repeated every 90 days, and your instructor must give you training in that period in order to endorse you.

**Airports and Route:** Your solo flights can only be done in the areas that your instructor approves you to fly in his endorsement. You will be able to solo at your home airport, but any additional airports <25nm require an endorsement.. For airports under 50nm you may receive a repeat flight endorsement after receiving training to/from/at that airport. You will need endorsements for any solo cross-country flights (>50nm), individually.. Unless it's an emergency, you will not be allowed to fly anywhere other than the airport and practice area without an endorsement, so keep in touch with your instructor.

**Weather:** Your instructor will specify the weather minimums such as winds, visibility or ceiling limits, or crosswind landing limits for you during your solo period. These restrictions are there for your safety.

**Land and Hold Short Operations:** Some airports with intersecting runways and control towers will have land and hold short procedures where a pilot is required to land on a runway and hold short of an intersecting runway. Students cannot accept these instructions or execute these procedures, so be prepared to tell the tower controllers "unable" if you are a student.

**Passengers:** Students are allowed to fly solo only. No passengers are allowed in the aircraft, except when with your instructor.

**For Hire:** Student pilots on solo are also not allowed to fly for hire, carry passengers or property for hire or to fly in furtherance of a business.

**International:** Students signed off for solo are now allowed to fly internationally. Sorry, you can't make your solo cross country to The Bahamas.

**Class B Airspace:** The only additional airspace limitation for students is class B. Students can only enter class B or fly to airports in class B if they've received specific training and endorsements for that particular class B airspace. Your instructor will make this one very obvious to you as they will have to provide a special endorsement for it. If you don't have a class B endorsement, don't enter class B as a student pilot!