

Why wait for LSA?

Many of us have been waiting patiently for the Sport Pilot/ Light Sport Aircraft initiative to finalize, but with the debut of the Xenos Motor glider we have another option! Many of the features of the proposed Sport Pilot rules, such as no class 3 medical required, and less training time required to qualify for a rating, are already available to us by way of a motorglider (or "Self-Launch") endorsement.

On the positive side of motor glider rules, there is no "speed limit" specified, which allows the builder to choose the highest performance engine available if he wants maximum climb power. The fact that the plane would now easily exceed the maximum speed numbers of the Sport Pilot package are of no concern. While the Xenos is clearly intended to be a true motor glider, it will carry two average citizens and some baggage in moderate comfort for a powered cross country flight.

The Xenos meets all the criteria of the Light Sport Aircraft rules as we currently know them, and also fits into the tightly regulated specifications for a legitimate FAA approved motorglider. So if you are like the thousands of individuals who are currently grounded, awaiting the LSA rules to be finalized before you can take to the skies, your wait may be over and the Xenos may be the answer. For those of us who realize that we are merely one physical away from being grounded, a motorglider may be in our futures.

The Xenos can be built and licensed as either an airplane or a motorglider. As an airplane, you can legally fly it with your current PPL/SEL and medical certificate. But if it's licensed as a motorglider, our PPL is useless without a glider rating and a motorglider endorsement. Conversely, if it's licensed as an airplane, your glider license alone (with out a SEL rating) is useless, even with a motorglider endorsement.

Requirements for Private Pilot-Glider Rating (FAR 61.103)

- The applicant must be at least 16 Years Old
- Read/speak/understand English
- Receive logbook endorsement for check ride
- Pass knowledge test (written)
- Pass Practical Test, oral and flying

Aeronautical experience, no previous flights logged

(FAR 61.107(B)(6)).

- 10 hours flight time in gliders including:
- 20 flights in areas of operation (FAR 61.107(b)(6))
- Instruction: --3 flights, test prep, 60 days before test
- 2 hours of solo including 10 launches and landings

Add-on Glider Rating (no written required)

- Applicant has logged 40+ hours in heavier than air
- 3 hours flight time in gliders, including:
- 10 solo flights, FAR 61.107(b)(6)
- 3 training flights 60 days prior to test