

IDAHO STATE POLICE PROCEDURE

08.01 AIR OPERATIONS

I. General

Rated pilots employed by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Air Wings, Idaho Army and Air National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and the Idaho Division of Aeronautics are automatically considered qualified by Idaho State Police (ISP) when ISP is involved in cooperative air operations with those entities. All other aircraft and pilots used for air operations must meet the following minimum qualifications pursuant to [I.C. Title 21](#) and Idaho Department of Administration Bureau of Risk Management (Risk Management) guidelines:

II. Pilot and Aircraft Qualifications

A. Pilot qualification requirements:

1. a pilot's license without restrictions;
2. a current Class 2 medical certificate;
3. a minimum of 500 hours total logged flight time;
4. a current biannual flight check;
5. a minimum of 25 hours logged flight time in the type of aircraft to be flown;
6. proficiency in slow flight and rough terrain operations; and
7. proficiency in short and soft field take-off and landing procedures;

B. Aircraft qualification requirements:

1. meeting the performance and load-carrying requirements of the specific operation in which it is to be used, generally a high-wing, single-engine, fixed-gear craft such as the Cessna 180-182 series;
2. an engine rated at more than 150 horsepower;
3. compliance with all Federal Aviation Administration ([FAA](#)) [regulations](#) concerning maintenance, safety, and airworthiness;
4. rent or lease from vendors with [FAR Part 135](#) certification and approved by the Idaho Department of Administration's Bureau of Risk Management; and
5. documentation showing liability insurance coverage naming the State of Idaho as an additional insured party, an amount which is prescribed by Risk Management.

III. Aircraft and Operational Command

- A. The pilot is the commander and final authority in all matters dealing with the safety of the aircraft and passengers.
- B. The ISP observer is in command of the overall operation.

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IV. Safety Precautions

- A. Except in emergencies, no air operations are conducted under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) or reduced visibility conditions.
- B. A complete first aid kit must be carried on all flights.
- C. Pilots and observers should consider the use of ballistic vests in all surveillance flights.