

Licensing & Certification

Most advanced societies require some form of licensing to insure an individual is knowledgeable and competent in the operation of a vehicle, watercraft, aircraft or spacecraft to insure the safety of the passengers, the crew and the public. This many times extends to professional licenses for lawyers, physicians, nurses, investment brokers, teachers, barbers and construction contractors, to name a few. Each license will have unique and specific requirements. In order to attempt to obtain a license the PC must already have the prerequisite formal training and/or skills. Many licenses are designated private, commercial or military. Commercial denotes the carrying of cargos or passengers for profit. Military licenses are issued only by the military.

SPACECRAFT

Private Orbital Pilot Licenses are issued to pilots of ships' boats (mainly shuttlecraft) with rocket engines that are used for short distance ship-to-port transport only.

Commercial System Pilot Licenses are issued to pilots of starships with rocket engines (but without jump or warp capabilities) that are used for in-system or planet-to-planet transport.

Commercial Interstellar Pilot Licenses are issued to pilots of starships utilizing both rocket and jump engines that are used for in-system or interstellar transport.

Space flight requires a much higher dependency upon technology, and therefore certain assumptions are made to include the pilot automatically be considered instrument rated, trained in the use of rocket engines, and unless specified otherwise, has a spaceship or shuttlecraft that is streamlined for atmospheric flight with a turbojet propulsion system. The Imperial authorities will regulate licensing for interstellar pilots. The planetary or national authorities will regulate licensing for orbital or in-system pilots

Prerequisite Skills: Zero-G Craft 1, Turbojet 1, Astro Navigation 1 and Aero Navigation 1.

AIRCRAFT

Private Atmospheric Pilot License (Single/Dual Engine Craft)

Commercial Atmospheric Pilot License (Multi-Engine Craft)

Military Aerospace Pilot License (qualified in both atmospheric and zero-g/vacuum flight with sub-orbital re-entry capabilities). This license is issued by the appropriate military service.

Prerequisite Skills: Aircraft 1 and Aero Navigation 1.

Because flight within an atmosphere has many additional variable licensing needs to be more specific in classification proficiency. The Imperial authorities do not normally address this type of license.

The following are license qualifiers:

Type of Airframe:

Fixed-Wing (from Piper Cubs to 747s), Rotary-Wing (Helicopters), Tilt-Wing (V-22 Osprey), VTOLs (AV-8 Harrier), Airships (Lighter-than-Air Craft) or GravCraft (AirRafts / G-Carriers)

Navigation Method:

Visual Flight Rules (VFR) or Instrument (Radar / Ladar)

Engine Type: TurboProp, Turbojets, Rockets or Gliders (non-engine)

Special Categories: Seaplanes (Catalinas), UltraLights, Hot-Air Balloons, Dirigibles, Sub-Orbital Re-entry, Experimental Aircraft

Pilots are trained by first attending several months of ground school where they are taught basic and advanced flight principles, operational rules, navigation, weather or known space phenomena, engineering, communications and ending with training in a flight simulator. Once the student has passed ground school they attend flight school for several additional weeks or months. There they fly with pilot-instructor and perform actual flight tasks including take-offs / launches and landings / dockings, in-flight maneuvering, instrument-only flying, in-flight navigation and practice in-flight emergency procedures.

VEHICLES

Motorized ground vehicles which operate on public roadways (including super highways) require the driver to be knowledgeable of, not only the rules of the road, but competent in the operation of a specific class of vehicle. While most vehicles utilize public routes, other types of vehicles such as tracked or all-terrain vehicles do not. Listed below are vehicle licenses issued by state, national or international authorities. The Imperial authorities do not address this type of license.

Private Vehicle Licenses are issued to drivers of four-wheeled multi-passenger on-road vehicles including sub-compact to very-large luxury automobiles, limousines, pickup trucks, vans, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), 6- and 8-wheeled recreational vehicles (RVs) (but not 12- to 18-wheel tractor-trailer rigs, commercial buses or highly specialized construction heavy equipment vehicles) and all-terrain 4-wheel-drive jeeps. The emphasis is on vehicles utilizing 4 to 8 rubberized tires and are no greater than 24 feet in length. Purely off-road only vehicles such as dune-buggies and single passenger all-terrain quad-runners do not generally need a license to operate as does go-carts or motorized skateboards. Prerequisite Skills: Wheeled Vehicle 1.

Commercial Vehicle Licenses are issued to drivers who make a living driving, such as taxicab or limousine drivers or commercial van or delivery route drivers. Prerequisite Skills: Wheeled Vehicle 2.

Motorcycle Licenses are issued to drivers of two-wheel on-road motorized single or dual passenger cycles (mopeds, sports bikes or heavier road bikes or hogs). Bikes used off-road do not need a license such as dirt or mountain bikes and motorcross completion bikes nor do 3-wheeled all-terrain cycles (ATCs) or any tradition non-powered bicycles. Prerequisite Skills: Motorcycle 1.

Grav Vehicle Licenses are issued to drivers of anti-gravity multi-passenger vehicles utilizing advanced gravitics technology. These vehicles, when in operation, hover and travel between two and three feet above the roadway and travel at speeds up to 200+ mph, depending upon the terrain and weather conditions. The variety of grav vehicles can range from one or two person grav-cycles to larger and heavier commercial grav-vans and jeeps. Prerequisite Skills: Grav Vehicle 1.

Tracked Vehicle Licenses are issued to drivers of tracked vehicles. This is a true all-terrain vehicle used primarily by the military in the form of armored personnel carriers and tanks. They are never permitted to operate on paved roadways. These licenses are issued by military authorities. Prerequisite Skills: Tracked Vehicle 1.

Commercial Heavy Vehicle Licenses are issued to driver-operators of heavy specialized vehicles such as 18-wheel tractor-trailer rigs and over-sized, heavy or long vehicles used in construction or industry. This could include large passenger buses and fire trucks.

Special Vehicle Licenses are issued to drivers of high-performance emergency vehicle such as police cruisers, ambulances or competition racers. Prerequisite Skills: Wheeled Vehicle 2 or Grav Vehicle 2.

WATERCRAFT

Motorized watercraft which operates on public waterways (including lakes, rivers, canal ways, bays, harbors and oceans) require the pilot to be knowledgeable of, not only the rules of the water, but competent in the operation of motorized watercraft. Listed below is watercraft licenses issued by state or international authorities.

Sailcraft Licenses are issued to pilots of sailcraft. These are always private licenses.

Powercraft Licenses are issued to pilots of powered watercraft. These can be either private or commercial licenses.

ShipMasters Licenses are issued to pilots of large ocean-going vessels. These are always commercial licenses.

Hovercraft Licenses are issued to pilots of large hovercraft. These are always commercial licenses.

Submersible Licenses are issued to pilots of submarines. These can be either private or commercial licenses.

MEDICAL

Personnel who are responsible for the care and treatment of patients are licensed by the state insuring minimal proficiency in a specific profession. There is no designation between private or commercial.

Emergency Medical Technicians Licenses are issued to medical personnel with limited training who provide only emergency first-aid and life-saving trauma-care procedures. This could include police, ambulance para-medics/EMTs or military field medics. EMTs generally require an associate degree.

Nurses Licenses are issued to medical personnel with specialized nursing training who provide field or hospital care in the emergency room (ER), intensive care unit (ICU), operating room (OR) or various surgical or medical wards caring for patient needs. Nurses can be licensed vocational nurses (LVNs require an associate degree) or licensed registered nurses (RNs require a bachelor degree).

Physician's Assistants (PAs) Licenses are issued to individuals who perform many of the clinical and surgical duties in emergency rooms and trauma centers but do not have the level of expertise of a physician. PAs require a bachelors degree.

Physicians (MDs) Licenses are issued to individuals who have completed are four-year medical school and passed the medical boards examination.

Other medical licenses are issued to Dentist, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Pathologist, Medical Laboratory Technologist, etc.

LAW

Para-Legal Licenses are issued to individuals who support the legal system.

Law Clerk Licenses are issued to individuals who are legal assistants to lawyers.

Law Licenses are issued to individuals who are law board certified attorneys having completed a four-year law school with a JD degree.

BUSINESS

Accountant License

Investment Broker License

Financial Consultant License

Certification

Certification determines a PC's proficiency in a specific skill through testing. PC receives certification from a professional association (bar association for lawyers or medical association for physicians) or labor union / guild (pilots, navigators, engineers, gunners, medics, stewards, etc.).

Certification is an activity of a trade union, guild or professional association. Once the PC joins they may test for skill certification. Once their school or training credentials have been verified, or their flight hours confirmed, they are administered one or a series of tests (both physical and academic). If the PC rolls below 5 they fail the test and they lose one skill unit. If they roll between 5 and 9 they certify that skill. If they roll 10+ they know much more than they thought and earn one additional skill level in that skill.

Certification is often important in obtaining a job aboard a commercial starship or to find employment in a professional field. Commercial companies may often require that crew members be certified in order for the company to receive liability insurance discounts, or sometimes, even policies.