



WHAT TO DO IF STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

ALWAYS: Be courteous and respectful, remain calm. Answer questions truthfully but succinctly: do not volunteer information.

STEP 1: Inquire as to what is going on. *Law enforcement may respond that they are conducting a ramp check or an inspection.*

STEP 2: Request to see law enforcement's official identification.

STEP 3: Law enforcement asks for documents.

Note: FAA Regulation 61.51(i) (1) states that "a person must present their pilot certificate, medical certificate, logbook, or any other record **required by this part** for inspection upon a reasonable request by the Administrator, NTSB, any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer."

Exercising Privileges of Private, Commercial, or ATP pilot:

- Must have pilot certificate.
- Must have appropriate photo ID.
- Must have medical certificate.
- Does not have to have logbook in possession, but must be given reasonable time to obtain and present to the official.

Exercising Privileges of Sport Pilot:

- Must have pilot certificate.
- Must have valid U.S. driver's license.
- Must have required authorized instructor endorsements.

Exercising Privileges of Student Pilot:

- Must have student pilot certificate.
- Must have appropriate photo ID.
- Must have medical certificate.
- Must have logbook.

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Note: Law enforcement may ask for other documents than those specified under FAR 61.51(i). Existing guidance by CBP to law enforcement incorrectly states pilots must present for inspection airworthiness certificate, weight and balance calculations, aircraft logbooks, etc. AOPA is working to correct this misinformation. **Politely** advise the officer FAR 61.51 (i) only requires the documents listed above.

STEP 4: Inquire:

- Under what authority are you doing this?
- Am I under arrest?
- Am I being detained?
- Am I free to go?

STEP 5: Inquire as to who is in charge and document the following:

- Name of agency.
- Officer's name, badge number, and phone number.
- Officer's supervisor or commander's name and phone number.

STEP 6: Law enforcement may ask or state that they are going to inspect or search the aircraft and its contents visually, physically, or with dogs.

Make the following statements:

- "I do not consent to this search, but I will not interfere".
- "If you disassemble any part of this aircraft, including inspection plates, you may be rendering this aircraft unairworthy".

STEP 7: If you are a member of the AOPA Pilot Protection Services, and it is during normal business hours, call 1-800-872-2672 to speak with a plan attorney.

STEP 8: If possible record the event with a cell phone or camera. If not available, make detailed written notes during the event or as soon as practical.

STEP 9: CHECK YOUR EMOTIONAL STATUS! Are you able to continue your flight safely after such an ordeal?

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