

Gliding Australia Training Manual

Pilot Guide



Unit 41

Demonstrated Cross Country Capability

Unit 41 – Demonstrated Cross Country Capability

WHAT THIS UNIT IS ABOUT

To evaluate your capability to combine the GPC competencies to safely plan and achieve cross country flight in thermals.

WHAT ARE THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR THIS UNIT?

- GPC Unit 40 Cruising, speed to fly, height bands and thermal selection

KEY MESSAGES

- ☐ For safe and successful cross-country flight good pre-flight preparation is essential.
- ☐ In-flight choice of route, thermals and cruise speed must be constantly re-evaluated with consideration of weather, terrain, outlanding options and airspace.

PILOT GUIDE FOR THIS UNIT

Demonstrated Cross Country Capability is an assessment unit following completion of the cross-country syllabus portion of the GPC. You will be observed in all aspects of flight planning and flying a cross country with your coach in a two-seater.

You'll be assessed on your flight planning and the conduct of the flight. Your planned cross-country flight need not be long but must include at least two waypoints well beyond glide of the departure airfield given the anticipated conditions of the day.

Note that if flight planning is not completed to a suitable proficiency, then the flight assessment will not be conducted until you undertake further training and can demonstrate proficient flight planning.

Your flight planning and flight should be competent and safe. You've learned a lot of new cross-country concepts – it's not expected that you'll get everything right on the flight. However, lapses in lookout will require remedial training. Be aware that your lookout may deteriorate in high stress situations and when distracted by multiple task such as navigation and using a flight computer.

Congratulations on reaching the end of the cross-country training in the GPC syllabus. Your cross-country training opportunities don't stop there! The Advanced Training Syllabus will cover all of the cross-country topics in more detail and introduce many more topics, such as meteorological navigation, mountain flying and competitions.

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH

| COMMON PROBLEMS | |
|---|--|
| Problem | Probable Cause |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lapses in proficiency of previously trained cross-country competencies | Limited multitasking ability – this will improve with time but performance related to safety must not be compromised |

Unit 41 – Demonstrated Cross Country Capability

HOW DO YOU DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE?

- Demonstrate satisfactory flight planning considering at least
 - personal preparation
 - meteorology
 - airspace and radio frequencies
 - obtaining NOTAM
 - safe outlanding options and trailer/crew arrangements
 - task setting, task declaration and official observer awareness
 - flight computer programming
- Demonstrate
 - Effective lookout throughout all stages of the flight
 - Proficient navigation and choice of route considering thermal sources, weather and airspace
 - Safe consideration of outlanding options
 - Appropriate decisions on when to take thermals and when to leave
 - Safe entry to thermals and centring within 2-3 turns
 - An appropriate cruise speed relative to anticipated climb rate and height
 - Competent use of a flight computer