

Pre-purchase inspection

What to check before buying a used aeroplane, glider or helicopter in Europe. Each point carries the rule behind it, in Part-ML (Annex Vb to Regulation (EU) No 1321/2014) unless stated otherwise.

Your aircraft

To fill in before you go

TYPE AND MODEL

REGISTRATION

SERIAL NUMBER

SELLER

PLACE OF INSPECTION

DATE

1 To ask before you travel

4 points

- ☐ The registration, and check it against the papers 22% of adverts show it
- ☐ Airframe hours, and engine hours since new and since the last overhaul 33% of adverts state them
- ☐ Has the aircraft been damaged? If so, the repair file ML.A.902(b)(4), ML.A.304
- ☐ The ARC's expiry date ML.A.901(a)

2 The papers

12 points

- ☐ Valid airworthiness certificate, aircraft on the register of an EU Member State ML.A.902(a)
- ☐ Valid ARC (airworthiness review certificate), expires: ____ / ____ / ____ ML.A.901(a)
- ☐ Aircraft, engine and propeller logbooks; log cards for life-limited parts ML.A.305(b)
- ☐ Each maintenance task closed by a certificate of release to service, with the signer's approval or licence ML.A.305(a), ML.A.801(e)
- ☐ Status of every applicable airworthiness directive (AD), all carried out ML.A.303, ML.A.305(d)(1)
- ☐ Modifications and repairs recorded, done with approved or declared data ML.A.304, ML.A.903(a)(6)
- ☐ Life-limited components within their limits ML.A.903(a)(7)
- ☐ Current mass and balance report ML.A.305(d)(5)
- ☐ List of deferred maintenance ML.A.305(d)(6)
- ☐ Maintenance programme (AMP): who declared or approved it, and its deviations from the manufacturer's recommendations ML.A.302(c)(7)
- ☐ Flight manual at its latest revision, matching the aircraft as configured ML.A.903(a)(2)
- ☐ Noise certificate, if required ML.A.903(a)(11)

3 The engine

2 points

- ☐ Hours since new and since the last overhaul, read in the engine logbook ML.A.305(e)
- ☐ The manufacturer's TBO. If it is exceeded: what the maintenance programme says ML.A.302(c)(5)(d), (c)(7)

4 The aircraft itself

6 points

- ☐ Required markings and placards in place ML.A.903(c)(1)
- ☐ Aircraft complies with its approved flight manual ML.A.903(c)(2)
- ☐ What is fitted matches the documentation: engine, propeller, avionics, modifications ML.A.903(c)(3)
- ☐ No evident defect left unaddressed ML.A.903(c)(4)
- ☐ Serial numbers, equipment and hours on the meter match the papers ML.A.903(c)(5)
- ☐ An inspector qualified on the type, who does not maintain the aircraft for the seller advice

5 Microlight registered in France

3 points

- ☐ Identification sheet: the aircraft matches it arrêté of 23/09/1998, art. 14
- ☐ Maintained to its maintenance manual arrêté of 23/09/1998, art. 14
- ☐ Elsewhere: ask the authority of the country of registration which papers apply (EU) 2018/1139, Annex I

6 At signature

1 point

- ☐ The seller hands over the airworthiness records with the aircraft ML.A.307(a)

Your decision

- ☐ I buy
- ☐ I negotiate
- ☐ I walk away

NOTES
