

Checklists are Good!!

Welcome to the first article of our Customer Read File series. There are so many subjects that we can discuss but, we had to start somewhere and I thought that checklist usage would be as good a subject as any.

FAA-H-8083-3A states; “.....Checklists are of no value if the pilot is not committed to its use.”

There are at least two ways to use the checklist. First, we can use it as a check-off list. We do this by referring to the checklist, perform that function and then move on to the next item. An example of this would be the Starting Engine checklist.

The second method is to refer to the checklist after completing a flow. An example of this would be the After Landing Check. We exit the runway, come to a complete stop with room for another aircraft behind us, change to Ground frequency (in case they need to call us) and then perform a flow positioning switches to the correct position and properly configuring the aircraft. We then refer to the checklist after the flow to make certain we have done everything the list calls for. In light aircraft, the flow should start from the right or left side of the cockpit unless the POH specifies a particular flow direction. In the Cessna 172SP it could begin by turning the transponder to standby, positioning the flaps to the up or retracted position, leaning the mixture, followed by turning those lights we don't need on the ground off or on (at night; landing light and strobes-off, taxi light-on)

Don't forget to use the checklist on engine shutdown as well. We have found switches incorrectly positioned after flights. Remember, the flight is not over until the last tie-down is secured.

It is important to know when not to use a checklist or perform a flow. Exiting the runway is one time we must concentrate on aircraft control. Reading the checklist or positioning switches during the landing rollout or while exiting the runway is dangerous. Remember; fly the aircraft, and that means until it comes to a complete stop.

Thank you for flying with us at Executive Flyers Aviation. We hope that all your flying experiences are “Passion-found”!

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