

THE STATE OF INSTRUMENT CURRENCY

A rated pilot may retain IFR currency by self-certifying he/she has logged, within the previous six months, at least the maneuvers and procedures described in FAR 61.57. These requirements are restated below:

- **Six instrument approaches.**
- **Holding procedures and tasks.**
- **Intercepting and tracking courses through the use of navigational electronic systems.**

These are minimal standards indeed, and entirely on the honor system. Experience flying missed approach procedures is not part of the requirement (holds can be flown as part of an arrival, or in the en route environment). In fact, an IFR pilot not flying under FAR 135 or 121 has no requirement to demonstrate any instrument proficiency ever again after first earning his/her instrument rating. As long as he/she logs the time and procedures, he/she is legal to fly in virtually any conditions—weather that may at times require a missed approach.

Pilots who retain currency entirely by logged activity may not be practicing missed approaches. This may be a factor in the rate of controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) and loss of control (LOC) accidents while attempting missed approach procedures.

