

✈️ Canadian AME Licence Checklist

Step-by-step guide to get your Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) M1/M2 Licence in Canada

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Transport Canada

AME M1 / M2

For Foreign Mechanics

FAA A&P / EASA / South American Licences

This checklist was created by a licensed AME (M1/M2) with 18 years of international experience, licensed in South America, USA (FAA A&P) and Canada. I made every mistake possible so you don't have to. Follow this checklist in order — do not skip steps.

🌐 Can my foreign training or licence be recognized?

In some cases, Transport Canada has recognized foreign aviation education or training — but this is **not a guaranteed or easy path**. It is lengthy, unpredictable, and success depends heavily on your specific documentation and how your training aligns with Canadian standards.

Recommended approach: You may attempt the foreign training recognition route — give it a defined time window (e.g. 3–6 months of active pursuit). If you are not making clear progress within that window, **do not wait any longer** — pivot immediately and start the Canadian training program. Time is your most valuable resource. Starting Canadian training is always the most reliable and direct path to your AME licence.

⚠️ IMPORTANT — No automatic conversion: There is **NO automatic conversion or direct equivalency of foreign licences in Canada**. It does not matter if you hold an FAA A&P, EASA B1/B2 or any South American licence — these are not automatically accepted. Do not waste months assuming your foreign licence will be converted. Pursue recognition actively but set a deadline, then move forward with Canadian training if needed.

STEP 1 Confirm Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Be at least **21 years of age** at time of application.
- Have a valid government-issued ID.
- Confirm your target rating: **M1** (piston/turboprop — general aviation) or **M2** (turbine — airlines/jets) or both.
- Understand the difference: M1 = small aircraft (general aviation). M2 = turbine engines (airlines, jets, helicopters).

💡 Note: You can begin studying, preparing your documents, and planning your path **before** you are living in or authorized to work in Canada. Many international mechanics start this process from their home country — the earlier you start preparing, the better.

AME M1 Rating


AME M2 Rating

Piston and turboprop aircraft
General aviation
Small operators and FBOs

Turbine-powered aircraft
Airlines and large operators
MRO facilities (Air Canada, WestJet, etc.)

STEP 2 Complete an Approved AME Basic Training Program

- Find a **Transport Canada approved AME training school** on the Transport Canada website (search: "AME basic training organizations Canada").
- Choose a program that matches your target rating (M1, M2, E or S).
- Confirm program duration (typically 18–24 months for full programs).
- Obtain your **Certificate of Completion** from the approved school.
- Keep all transcripts, course records and certificates — Transport Canada will require them.

 **Pro Tip:** If you already have extensive aviation experience, look for accelerated or part-time programs at community colleges. You do NOT need to spend years re-learning basics — focus on Canadian regulations and the specific curriculum gaps. This saves significant time and money.

STEP 3 Accumulate Required Civil Aviation Maintenance Experience

- Accumulate the required **total amount of civil aviation maintenance experience** (generally 2–3+ years for most ratings).
- Ensure your experience is on **civil registered aircraft** (military experience may not fully count).
- Your experience from other countries **may count** toward total experience hours — but must be documented correctly (see Step 4).

STEP 4 Document Your Maintenance Task Skill Requirements

- Download and use the **official Transport Canada maintenance task record forms** — do NOT use your company's internal software or forms (they will not be accepted).
- Record all required specific maintenance tasks on the correct form:
 - M1 or M2 rating maintenance task record
 - E rating maintenance task record (if applicable)
 - S rating maintenance task record (if applicable)
- Have your tasks **signed and verified** by a licensed AME or authorized person at your workplace.
- Keep copies of all signed task records — originals may be requested.
- If Transport Canada requests more detail on specific tasks, provide: maintenance releases, additional records, and/or photographs of equipment used.

⚠ Common Mistake: Do NOT use your employer's internal software (e.g. AMOS, TRAX) printouts as your task record. Transport Canada requires their specific forms. Using the wrong format will delay your application significantly.

STEP 5 Study For and Pass the AME Examinations

- Download the "**Study and Reference Guide for AME Examinations**" from the Transport Canada website — this tells you exactly what is on the exams.
- Focus your study on **Appendix B** — the list of reference publications you are actually tested on.
- Key study materials (do not try to read everything — focus on relevant sections):
 - Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM)
 - Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) — especially Part V and Part VI
 - FAA Airframe & Powerplant Handbooks (widely used as reference)
 - Jeppesen AMT Technician General Textbook
- Book and pass the **Technical Exam** specific to your rating (M1 or M2) first.
- Book and pass the **Regulatory Exam** (required for all ratings).
- Exams are written at Transport Canada designated exam centres — book in advance.
- Keep your exam results/pass certificates — required for your application package.

💡 Pro Tip: Do not try to read every reference book cover to cover. Use the Study and Reference Guide to identify which specific topics and standards are tested, then study those sections only. Smart, focused study beats reading everything.

STEP 6 Prepare Your Application Package

- Download the correct **AME licence application form** from Transport Canada website.
- Gather all required documents:
 - Completed application form
 - Proof of age (passport or government ID)
 - Certificate of completion from approved training school
 - Official transcripts from training program
 - Completed maintenance task skill records (signed)
 - Proof of civil aviation maintenance experience
 - Exam pass certificates (technical + regulatory)
 - Application fee payment
- Do NOT submit your application until ALL items above are complete — incomplete applications cause significant delays.

- If any documents are in another language — arrange for **certified translation to English or French** before submitting.

STEP 7 Submit Your Application to Transport Canada

- Submit your complete application package to the appropriate **Transport Canada Regional Office**.
- Keep copies of EVERYTHING you submit — originals and copies.
- Monitor your email regularly — Transport Canada will contact you if they need additional information.
- Respond promptly to any Transport Canada requests — delays in response = delays in your licence.
- If they request additional task documentation — provide maintenance releases, photos, additional records as needed.
- After approval — verify your licence details (name, rating, category) are correct upon receipt.

🕒 Realistic Timeline Overview

Phase	Estimated Time
Foreign training recognition attempt (optional — set a deadline)	3–6 months max
Find and enroll in approved training program	1–4 weeks
Complete AME basic training	12–24 months (varies by school & schedule)
Accumulate required maintenance experience	2–3+ years (may run concurrently)
Study and pass AME exams	3–6 months (focused study)
Prepare and submit application	2–4 weeks
Transport Canada processing	4–12 weeks

💡 **From personal experience:** The biggest time wasters are (1) waiting indefinitely for foreign training to be recognized — set a deadline and move on if it's not progressing, (2) using the wrong task record format. Use Transport Canada's official forms from day one and you will save months of back-and-forth.

Created by a licensed AME M1/M2 | FAA A&P | 18 years international experience

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