



C-180 Floatplane (FCDQ) "CAMPFRS" Checklist



The nature of flying float planes requires that we keep our eyes outside the cockpit at virtually all times. This doesn't mean we don't look at or instruments, (we are constantly scanning our instruments) it just means we must develop a scan that distributes attention where it is most required. In the low-level float world, that is outside – on the ramp, dock, water and in flight. If you have ever flown a tail dragger you know you don't take your attention away from the aircraft until the wheels are chocked. So it is with the floatplane until you are secured to the dock, ramp or beach, or safely removed from the water.

Consequently, we have developed a mental checklist for all phases of flight from the Take-Off checks to the After-Landing checks. It is an embellishment of the Jack Brown Floatplane School checklist of: **CARS** and gives us a "below-the-line" final check for all phases of flight.

For the more complex C-180, we have added a few items which make it **CAMPFRS**.

Verbal Challenge	Verbal Response
Carb Heat	OFF (for go-around) / ON (for carb-ice check)
Area	CLEAR (check landing / take-off area)
Mixture	RICH / (Lean As Required for taxi / altitude)
Props	FINE / 2400 / 2300 (Take-off & Landing / Climb / Cruise)
Flaps	SET for Take-Off / Landing (Normally 20°) • Cowl Flaps – Open / Closed
Rudders	UP / DOWN (Take-off, Landing & Cruise / Taxi)
Stick / Switches	FULL BACK (for Take-off) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radios & GPS – Master On / Off • Transponder – (1200) Standby / Alt • Instruments – Checked • Primer – Locked • Master – On • Mags – Both • Rotating Beacon – On • Nav Lights – On / Off • Landing Lights – On / Off • Harness & Doors – Secure • Fuel – On Both <p>**These items are in a Left-to-Right / Top-to-Bottom geographical flow in the cockpit**</p>

This checklist system will allow you to do your Take-off through After-Landing checks while keeping your eyes outside on the business at hand. It will help you develop a solid standard mental checklist for any aircraft in the float industry including amphibious equipped float planes. As long as you use it!!!

****The CAMPFRS Checklist is clipped to the visor over the Pilot's seat for quick reference****