SECTION 6

WEIGHT AND BALANCE

6.1 GENERAL

In order to achieve the performance and flying characteristics which are designed into the airplane, it must be flown with the weight and center of gravity (C.G.) position within the approved operating range (envelope). Although the airplane offers a flexibility of loading, it cannot be flown with the maximum number of adult passengers, full fuel tanks and maximum baggage. With this loading flexibility comes responsibility. The pilot must insure that the airplane is loaded within the loading envelope before takeoff.

Misloading carries consequences for any aircraft. An overloaded airplane will not take off, climb or cruise as well as a properly loaded one. The heavier the airplane is loaded, the less climb performance it will have.

Center of gravity is a determining factor in flight characteristics. If the C.G. is too far forward in any airplane, it may be difficult to rotate for takeoff or landing. If the C.G. is too far aft, the airplane may rotate prematurely on takeoff or tend to pitch up during climb. Longitudinal stability will be reduced. This can lead to inadvertent stalls and even spins; and spin recovery becomes more difficult as the center of gravity moves aft of the approved limit.

A properly loaded airplane, however, will perform as intended. Before the airplane is licensed, it is weighed, and a basic empty weight and C.G. location is computed (basic empty weight consists of the standard empty weight of the airplane plus the optional equipment). Using the basic empty weight and C.G. location, the pilot can easily determine the weight and C.G. position for the loaded airplane by computing the total weight and moment and then determining whether they are within the approved envelope.

The basic empty weight and C.G. location are recorded in the Weight and Balance Data Form (Figure 6-5) and the Weight and Balance Record (Figure 6-7). The current values should always be used. Whenever new equipment is added or any modification work is done, the mechanic responsible for the work is required to compute a new basic empty weight and C.G. position and to write these in the Aircraft Log Book and the Weight and Balance Record. The owner should make sure that it is done.

A weight and balance calculation is necessary in determining how much fuel or baggage can be loaded so as to keep within allowable limits. Check calculations prior to adding fuel to insure against improper loading.

The following pages are forms used in weighing an airplane in production and in computing basic empty weight, C.G. position, and useful load. Note that the useful load includes usable fuel, baggage, cargo and passengers. Following this is the method for computing takeoff weight and C.G.

6.3 AIRPLANE WEIGHING PROCEDURE

At the time of licensing, Piper provides each airplane with the basic empty weight and center of gravity location. This data is supplied by Figure 6-5.

The removal or addition of equipment or airplane modifications can affect the basic empty weight and center of gravity. The following is a weighing procedure to determine this basic empty weight and center of gravity location:

(a) Preparation

(1) Be certain that all items checked in the airplane equipment list are installed in the proper location in the airplane.

(2) Remove excessive dirt, grease, moisture, and foreign items, such as rags and tools, from the airplane before weighing.

(3) Defuel airplane. Then open all fuel drains until all remaining fuel is drained. Operate engine on each tank until all undrainable fuel is used and engine stops. Then add the unusable fuel (2.0 gallons total, 1.0 gallon each wing).

CAUTION

Whenever the fuel system is completely drained and fuel is replenished, it will be necessary to run the engine for a minimum of three minutes at 1000 RPM on each tank to insure no air exists in the fuel supply lines.

(4) Fill with oil to full capacity.

(5) Place pilot and copilot seats in fourth (4th) notch, aft of forward position. Put flaps in fully retracted position and all control surfaces in the neutral position. Tow bar should be in the proper location and all entrance and baggage doors should be closed.

(6) Weigh the airplane inside a closed building to prevent errors in the scale readings due to wind.

(b) Leveling

(1) With airplane on scales, block main gear oleo pistons in the fully extended position.

(2) Level airplane (refer to Figure 6-3) by deflating the nose wheel tire to center bubble on level.

(c) Weighing - Airplane Basic Empty Weight

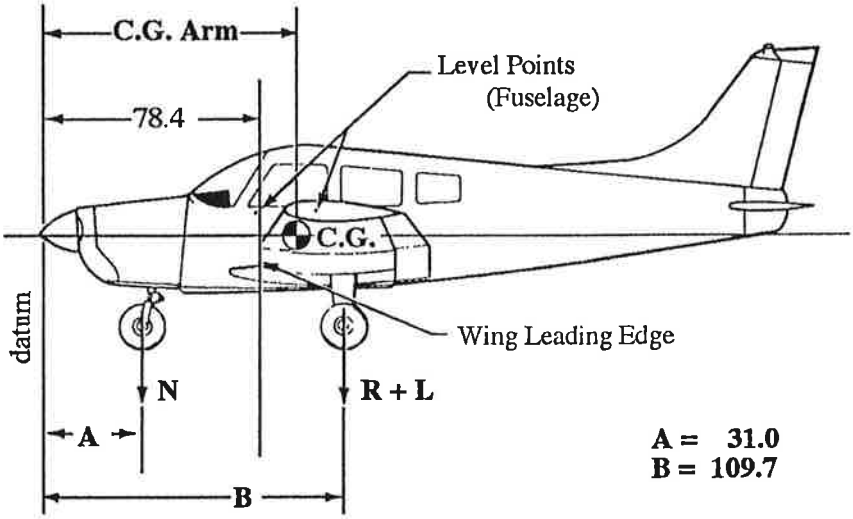
With the airplane level and brakes released, record the weight shown on each scale. Deduct the tare, if any, from each reading.

Scale Position and Symbol	Scale Reading	Tare	Net Weight
Nose Wheel (N)			
Right Main Wheel (R)			
Left Main Wheel (L)			
Basic Empty Weight, (as Weighed) (T)			

WEIGHING FORM
Figure 6-1

(d) Basic Empty Weight Center of Gravity

(1) The following geometry applies to the PA-28-161 airplane when it is level. Refer to Leveling paragraph 6.3 (b).



NOTE: The DATUM is 78.4 inches ahead of the wing leading edge at the intersection of the straight and tapered section.

LEVELING DIAGRAM
Figure 6-3

(2) The basic empty weight center of gravity (as weighed including optional equipment, full oil and unusable fuel) can be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{C.G. Arm} = \frac{N(A) + (R + L)(B)}{T} \text{ inches}$$

Where: $T = N + R + L$

6.5 WEIGHT AND BALANCE DATA AND RECORD

The Basic Empty Weight, Center of Gravity Location and Useful Load listed in Figure 6-5 are for the airplane as licensed at the factory. These figures apply only to the specific airplane serial number and registration number shown.

The basic empty weight of the airplane as licensed at the factory has been entered in the Weight and Balance Record (Figure 6-7). This form is provided to present the current status of the airplane basic empty weight and a complete history of previous modifications. Any change to the permanently installed equipment or modification which affects weight or moment must be entered in the Weight and Balance Record and Equipment List.

6.7 WEIGHT AND BALANCE DETERMINATION FOR FLIGHT

(a) Add the weight of all items to be loaded to the basic empty weight.
(b) Use the Loading Graph (Figure 6-13) to determine the moment of all items to be carried in the airplane.
(c) Add the moment of all items to be loaded to the basic empty weight moment.
(d) Divide the total moment by the total weight to determine the C.G. location.
(e) By using the figures of item (a) and item (d) (above), locate a point on the C.G. range and weight graph (Figure 6-15). If the point falls within the C.G. envelope, the loading meets the weight and balance requirements.

	Weight (Lbs)	Arm Aft Datum (Inches)	Moment (In-Lbs)
Basic Empty Weight	1505.0	85.9	129279
Pilot and Front Passenger	340.0	80.5	27370
Passengers (Rear Seats)*	150.0	118.1	17715
Fuel (48 Gallon Maximum)	180.0	95.0	17100
Baggage* (200 Lbs. Maximum)	27	142.8	3856
Fuel Allowance For Engine Start, Taxi and Run Up	-7.0	95.0	-665
Takeoff Weight (2202 Lbs. Normal, 2020 Lbs. Utility Maximum)	2195.0	88.7	194655

The center of gravity (C.G.) of this sample loading problem is at 90.6 inches aft of the datum line. Locate this point (90.6) on the C.G. range and weight graph. Since this point falls within the weight - C.G. envelope, this loading meets the weight and balance requirements.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PILOT AND AIRCRAFT OWNER TO INSURE THAT THE AIRPLANE IS LOADED PROPERLY.

*Utility Category Operation - No baggage or aft passengers allowed.

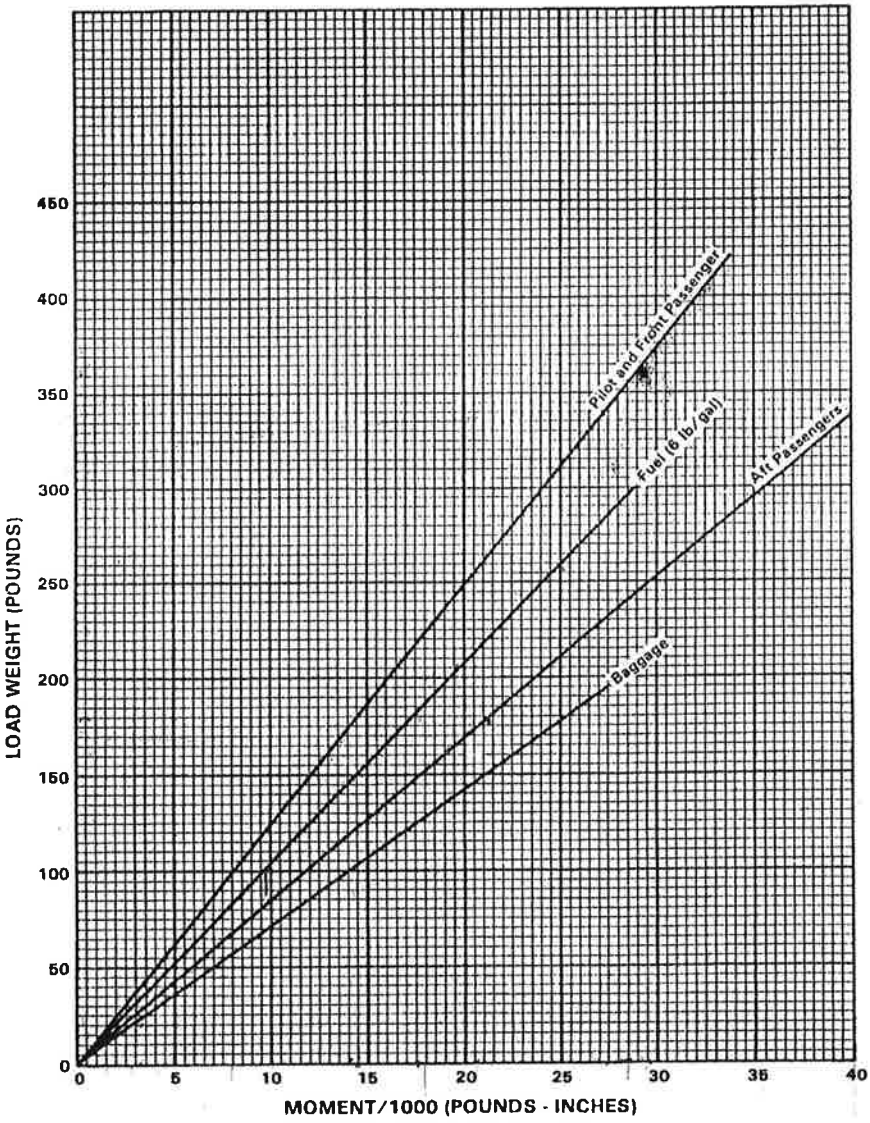
SAMPLE LOADING PROBLEM (NORMAL CATEGORY)
Figure 6-9

	Weight (Lbs)	Arm Aft Datum (Inches)	Moment (In-Lbs)
Basic Empty Weight			
Pilot and Front Passenger		80.5	
Passengers (Rear Seats)*		118.1	
Fuel (48 Gallon Maximum)		95.0	
Baggage* (200 Lbs. Maximum)		142.8	
Fuel Allowance For Engine Start, Taxi and Run Up	-7	95.0	-665
Takeoff Weight (2202 Lbs. Normal, 2020 Lbs. Utility Maximum)			

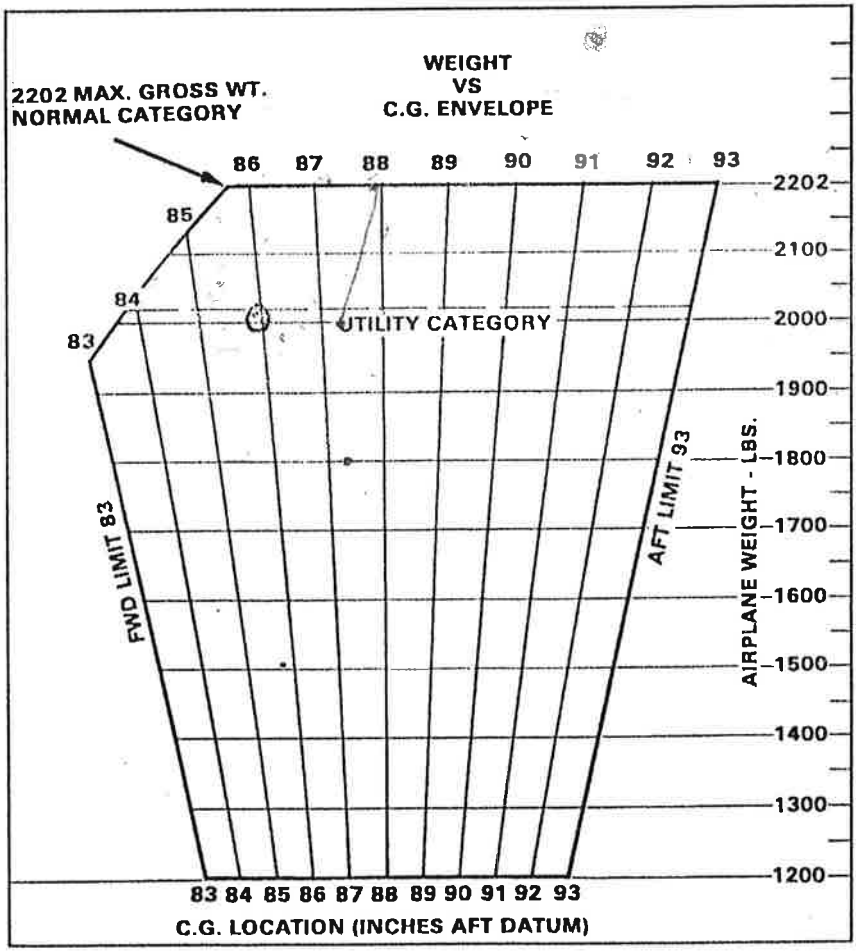
Totals must be within approved weight and C.G. limits. It is the responsibility of the airplane owner and the pilot to insure that the airplane is loaded properly. The Basic Empty Weight C.G. is noted on the Weight and Balance Data Form (Figure 6-5). If the airplane has been altered, refer to the Weight and Balance Record for this information.

*Utility Category Operation - No baggage or aft passengers allowed.

WEIGHT AND BALANCE LOADING FORM
Figure 6-11



LOADING GRAPH
Figure 6-13



C.G. RANGE AND WEIGHT
Figure 6-15