



2026 Pre-Owned Aircraft Buyer Checklist

Comprehensive due diligence guide for acquiring pre-owned business jets

Safe Fly Aviation • Enterprise Edition

Why This Checklist Matters

Pre-purchase inspection (PPI) is the single most important investment in any aircraft acquisition — typically 1-2% of purchase price. This checklist helps you systematically evaluate every critical aspect of a pre-owned aircraft, from airframe to engines to documentation. Complete each section before finalizing your purchase.

Pro Tip: Never skip PPI. Independent inspection facilities provide unbiased assessments. Use this checklist with your technical advisor.

1. Airframe Inspection

General visual inspection – no visible damage

Corrosion inspection – critical zones (wheel wells, bilge, battery area)

Structural sampling per manufacturer guidelines

Landing gear overhaul status and NDT records

Flap and control surface condition

Wing spar and bulkhead inspection (eddy current/ultrasound)

Pressurization system leak check

Window and windshield condition (no cracks, delamination)

2. Engine Inspection & Performance

Borescope inspection – all compressor and turbine sections

Engine trend monitoring data – last 24 months

LLP remaining life verification (discs, blades, spools, shafts)

Oil analysis history – last 12 months

Hot section inspection (HPT blades, vanes)

Engine program status – MSP / JSSI / HCR coverage

Engine run-up and power assurance check

Engine logbooks – complete and traceable

3. Auxiliary Power Unit (APU)

APU run and load bank test

APU cycle and hour log review

APU hot section inspection history

APU generator output and frequency check

4. Avionics & Navigation

ADS-B Out compliance (2020+ mandate)

FMS navigation database – current cycle

GPS/IRS functionality check

TCAS operation and compliance

GPWS/EGPWS system check

Radar and weather detection systems

Autopilot and flight director check

CVR/FDR download and verification

5. Records & Documentation

Airframe logbooks – complete and chronological

Engine logbooks (each engine) – complete

APU logbook – complete

AD/SB compliance verification

Title search – no liens or encumbrances

Damage history report review

Weight and balance report – current

Export/Import documentation readiness

6. Interior & Cabin

Seats and upholstery condition

Galley equipment and appliances functional

Lavatory condition and plumbing

Entertainment system functionality

Cabin lighting and climate control

Sidewall and headliner condition

Window shades and blinds operational

In-flight connectivity (WiFi) test

7. Operational Tests

Flight test – full envelope (takeoff, cruise, landing)

Hydraulic system pressure and leak check

Fuel system integrity and quantity calibration

Electrical system and battery condition



Pressurization and air conditioning check



Ice protection system (de-icing/anti-icing)



Brake and anti-skid system test




Emergency equipment (oxygen, fire extinguishers)

Inspection Summary

0

items completed out of 52 total

 Only proceed with purchase after ALL critical items are verified



Inspection Notes & Findings

Record any discrepancies, findings, or seller commitments here...



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This checklist is a guide only. Always use qualified independent inspectors for pre-purchase evaluations.