

Piper PA-46 Meridian Model Guide

The Piper PA-46 Meridian is a single-engine, pressurized turboprop sold from 2000 to 2013, seating 4 to 6. The sources describe a 2003 gross weight increase, Meggitt or Garmin G1000 avionics depending on the airplane, and several inspection items a buyer should check in the logbooks.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Piper PA-46 Meridian: turboprop single built 2000-2013, 4 to 6 seats; actual weights vary by airplane and equipment.
- 2003 factory gross weight increase raised MTOW from 4,850 to 5,092 lb and useful load by 242 lb.
- Avionics vary: Meggitt MAGIC 1500 suite, Garmin G1000 with SVS option, or Avidyne retrofit.
- Check logbooks for service bulletin and airworthiness directive compliance, especially stall warning heat and engine mount.

WEIGHT AND PAYLOAD

A 2003 AOPA report says New Piper raised maximum takeoff weight from 4,850 to 5,092 lb. That is 242 lb more useful load and a full-fuel payload of 569 lb. Vortex generators (92 on the wings, 80 on the horizontal stabilizer) keep the landing-configuration stall speed at 61 knots. Cutter Aviation sells a Gross Weight Increase Kit worth roughly 250 lb of extra useful load. Confirm which weight applies to the airplane you are buying.

AVIONICS AND CABIN UPGRADES

The 2003 airplane came with the Meggitt MAGIC 1500 autopilot, dual GNS 530 units and a weather radar. The pressurization system comes on automatically as you pass through 12,000 ft. Garmin G1000 airplanes can carry the Synthetic Vision and Pathways option under STC SA01533WI-D. Avidyne offers an Entegra Release 9 retrofit. Cutter's MaXus Air STC raises cooling capacity from 3,500 to 18,000 BTU.

RECORDS TO REVIEW

Ask for proof of compliance with Piper Service Bulletin 1139A (control wheel attachment, Meridian serials 4697001 through 4697174) and Service Bulletin 1103B (engine mount cracks near the nose gear actuator). The NZ CAA schedule also lists fuel vent valve, cabin altitude encoder, upper wing skin, stall warning heat and control column mount bearing directives.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Type	turboprop
Pressurization Auto On Ft	12000

PERFORMANCE

Stall Speed Landing Kts	61
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WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	5092
Useful Load Increase Lbs	242
Full Fuel Payload Lbs	569

SAFETY NOTES

- FAA AD 2021-04-07: airplanes with a replaced wing lacking the stall warning heat kit risk ice on the stall vane with gear down in icing.
- Service Bulletin 1103B: engine mount cracks may form from hard landings, rough fields or improper towing; inspect every 100 hours until the part is replaced.
- Service Bulletin 1139A: a control wheel separated from its shaft in the field; Part I within 25 hours and Part II within 100 hours.