

Reims-Cessna F406 Caravan II Model Guide

The Reims-Cessna F406 Caravan II is an unpressurised twin-turboprop in production from 1985. It has two Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-112 engines, each flat-rated to 500 shp. It is certified for 11 seats under FAR 23 or 14 under SFAR 41C, and has a 30,000 ft service ceiling. Operators in the records use it for freight, training and passenger work.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Two PT6A-112 turboprops at 500 shp each; unpressurised, with a 30,000 ft service ceiling.
- Max takeoff weight is 9360 lb, or 9850 lb when modified under CESRA 406-0011. Usable fuel is 475.0 gal.
- At max-range power at 20,000 ft the POH shows 1652 nm in 8.54 hours at 194 KTAS (standard conditions, no wind).
- Past incidents involve autopilot and pitch trim, and oxygen at altitude. Check those systems first.

WHAT IT IS

The F406 was a joint Reims and Cessna development. It uses parts of the unpressurised Titan fuselage, a Conquest I nose and a Conquest II tail, plus Conquest II wings with a redesigned nacelle for the PT6A-112. The type certificate is EASA.A.109. ASI Aviation has held it since 2014 and supplies spare parts only.

WEIGHTS, FUEL AND RANGE

The POH lists max takeoff and landing weight at 9360 lb and max ramp weight at 9435 lb. Total fuel is 481.5 gal and usable fuel is 475.0 gal. At max cruise power at 20,000 ft the POH shows 1281 nm at 244 KTAS. Figures are calculated values and vary with the individual airplane.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Ask whether the autopilot disconnect switch and warning light modification is fitted. Check the oxygen system: a fully integrated mask system versus portable bottles with cannulas. Review the engine record, since aviation gasoline is emergency-only and limited to 150 hours per overhaul period. Confirm whether the 9850 lb CESRA 406-0011 modification is embodied.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Count	2
Engine Power Hp	500
Seats Max	14
Total Fuel Gal	481.5
Usable Fuel Gal	475
Service Ceiling Ft	30000
Propeller Blades	3

PERFORMANCE

Service Ceiling Ft	30000
Max Range Power Range 20000ft Nm	1652
Max Range Power Speed 20000ft Kts	194
Max Cruise Power Range 20000ft Nm	1281
Max Cruise Power Speed 20000ft Kts	244

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	9360
Max Takeoff Weight Modified Lbs	9850
Max Landing Weight Lbs	9360
Max Ramp Weight Lbs	9435
Max Zero Fuel Weight Lbs	8500
Usable Fuel Gal	475

SAFETY NOTES

- G-FIND (2016): autopilot pitch trim ran nose down and controlling the aircraft was difficult until the autopilot was off and trim reset. Autopilot disconnect switch modification fitted.
- G-RVLW (2021): pilot suffered hypoxia at FL180. The aircraft is unpressurised and oxygen is needed above 10,000 ft. Operator retrofitted mask-based oxygen systems.
- G-TWIG (2004): fatal high-speed dive; major airframe and powerplant failures were discounted but no firm cause was found.