



AV News Update

Specially prepared for FAAS Team Members by FAA Aviation News

September 2008

FAA EXTENDS DURATION OF FIRST- AND THIRD-CLASS MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

In the July 24, 2008, *Federal Register*, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced its final rule on the requirements and duration of medical certificates and amendments to medical certification procedures. Pilots under 40 years of age are most affected by the changes to Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) section 61.23.

A first-class medical certificate is required, when exercising airline transport pilot privileges, and at least a third-class medical certificate, when exercising private pilot privileges. Effective as of July 24, this rule extends the duration of first- and third-class medical certificates for certain individuals. For pilots under age 40, the first-class medical certificate is now valid for 12 months. For pilots over age 40, it remains six months for the first-class medical certificate. Third-class medical certificates are now valid for 60 months (5 years) for pilots under age 40 and 24 months (2 years) for pilots over age 40. The second-class medical certificate durations are unchanged, regardless of age.

In addition to extending the duration of certain medical certificates, this final rule also adopted amendments and editorial changes to the medical certification procedures. These are effective August 25, 2008. The intent of this action is to improve the efficiency of the medical certification program and the service provided to medical certificate applicants.

To view the final rule, visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-16911.pdf>.

FAA TO REQUIRE SPECIAL AWARENESS TRAINING FOR WASHINGTON, DC METROPOLITAN AREA

The FAA is requiring "special awareness" training for any pilot who flies under visual flight rules (VFR) within a 60-nautical-mile (NM) radius of the Washington, DC, VHF omni-directional range/distance measuring equipment (DCA VOR/DME). This training has been developed and provided by the FAA on its www.FAASafety.gov Web site and focuses primarily on training pilots on the procedures for flying in and around the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) and the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ).

This rule becomes effective February 9, 2009. For more information about the rule you may visit: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-18619.pdf>.

FAA ISSUES NEW AC ON AVIATION TRAINING DEVICES

Advisory Circular (AC) 61-136 provides information and guidance for Aviation Training Device (ATD) manufacturers seeking Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of basic aviation training devices (BATD) or advanced aviation training devices (AATD) under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) section 61.4(c). This AC also provides information and guidance for those persons who intend to use a BATD or AATD for activities involving pilot training or certification, other than for aircraft type specific training or for an aircraft type rating. The FAA will determine and approve appropriate uses for an ATD.

During the past several years, significant developments in computer simulation and visual graphic processing ability have led to the increased use of advanced flight simulation training devices in General Aviation (GA). The GA community is using the new and emerging simulation technology to provide increasingly effective training capability at reduced cost. However, the FAA has determined that not all evaluated simulation technology is acceptable for GA training purposes. Therefore, the FAA is consolidating the existing guidance into this publication to formally recognize the suitability of certain GA flight simulation training devices.

This AC also contains procedures regarding the approval for the use of an ATD under 14 CFR parts 61 and 141. Criteria specified in this AC are those used by the FAA to determine whether an ATD is qualified and, if qualified, whether it is qualified at the BATD or the AATD level.

To view the AC visit: http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAdvisoryCircular.nsf/0/37E40A5E69B18FEF8625748E005B327A?OpenDocument

Feedback regarding the AV News Update may be directed to AviationNews@faa.gov. The FAA Aviation News magazine is available online at: www.faa.gov/news/aviation_news/.

