DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 1, 61, 141, and 143

[Docket No. 25910; Notice No. 95-11]

RIN: 2120-AE71

Pilot, Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, and Pilot School Certification Rules

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking

(NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to revise the Federal Aviation Regulations that prescribe the certification and training requirements for pilots, flight instructors, and ground instructors and the operation of pilot schools approved by the FAA. In order to be more compatible with the current operating environment and the evolving demands of the National Airspace System, the proposals are intended to update training, certification, and recency of experience requirements. The proposals respond to comments to the FAA from the public, internal FAA review, and comments from the International Civil Aviation Organization.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 11, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposals may be delivered or mailed in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket (AGC–10), Docket No. 25910, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. All comments must be marked "Docket No. 25910." Comments may be examined in the Rules Docket, Room 915G, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., except on Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lynch, Certification Branch, AFS-840, General Aviation and Commercial Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3844.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments as they desire. Comments relating to the potential economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impact of the proposals contained in this notice are also invited.

The comments should identify the regulatory docket or notice number and should be submitted in triplicate to the Rules Docket address specified above. All comments received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the Administrator before action is taken on the proposed amendments, and the proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of comments received. All comments received as well as a report summarizing any substantive public contact with FAA personnel on this rulemaking will be filed in the docket. The docket is available for public inspection before and after the closing date for submitting comments. The FAA will acknowledge receipt of a comment if the commenter submits with the comment a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 25910." When the comment is received, the postcard will be dated, time stamped, and returned to the commenter.

The FAA has proposed specific flight and ground time requirements in various sections of this NPRM. These specific time requirements may be modified in light of the comments received in response to this NPRM.

Availability of the NPRM

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs. Attention: Public Inquiry Center, APA-220, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-3484. Requests should be identified by the NPRM number or docket number of this proposed rule. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future proposed rules should also request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11–2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

General Aviation Policy Statement

On September 8, 1993, Administrator David R. Hinson issued a general aviation policy statement in which he recognized that the general aviation industry is a critically important part of the nation's economy and the national transportation system. Administrator Hinson stated the following:

General aviation plays a crucial role in flight training for all segments of aviation and provides unique personal and recreational opportunities. It makes vital contributions to activities ranging from business aviation, to agricultural operations, to Warbird preservation, to glider and balloon flights. Accordingly, it is the policy of the FAA to

foster and promote general aviation while continuing to improve its safety record. These goals are neither contradictory nor separable. They are best achieved by cooperating with the aviation community to define mutual concerns and joint efforts to accomplish objectives. We will strive to achieve the goals through voluntary compliance and methods designed to reduce the regulatory burden on general aviation.

The FAA's general aviation programs will focus on:

- 1. Safety—To protect recent gains and aim for a new threshold.
- 2. FAA Services—To provide the general aviation community with responsive, customer-driven certification, air traffic, and other services.
- 3. Product Innovation and Competitiveness—To ensure the technological advancement of general aviation.
- 4. System Access and Capacity—To maximize general aviation's ability to operate in the National Airspace System.

5. Affordability—To promote economic and efficient general aviation operations, expand participation, and stimulate industry growth.

Accordingly, this rulemaking project was and is designed to meet these general aviation goals and provide economic relief from unnecessary, burdensome regulations. Throughout the development of this notice, the FAA has been in partnership with the general aviation community in developing and revising the rules in parts 61, 141, and 143 to ensure aviation safety and yet delete unnecessary, burdensome rules. The FAA is committed to this partnership with our general aviation constituents, and will continue the partnership through the notice and final rule phases of this rulemaking action.

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