aircraft category (i.e., ground instructorairplane, ground instructor-rotorcraft, ground instructor-glider, etc).

To make the ground instructor certificate more compatible with the demands of current training requirements, the FAA proposes to revise regulations on ground instructors and address the ground instructor certificate in a new subpart I in part 61. Current part 143, Ground Instructors, would be removed and reserved. Under the proposal, ground instructor certificates would be specific to aircraft categories. A practical test, as well as a knowledge test, would be required. The ground instructor certificate would still not expire, but new recency of experience requirements are proposed in order for a person to continue exercising the privileges of the certificate. This proposal would establish recordkeeping requirements for ground instructors and clarify ground instructors' privileges and limitations.

During the public hearings, commenters agreed that parts 61 and 143 could be combined, provided the ground instructor certificate is retained. Commenters, including Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) recommended that applicants for a ground instructor certificate be required to pass a practical test. The test would include an oral segment, but not a flight segment.

This proposal is based largely on the public comment. The proposal also reflects guidance contained in FAA Order 8700.1, "General Aviation Operations Inspector's Handbook," chapter 159, "Issuance of Ground Instructor Certificate and Added Ratings." subpart I is modeled on existing and proposed regulations for training and certification of flight instructors. The intent of the proposal is to recognize the importance of proper ground training and to make the ground instructor certificate more meaningful.

A number of issues, particularly administrative issues, currently addressed in part 143, such as replacement of a lost certificate, testing procedures, and change of address, are addressed in there respective categories in the proposal, along with other certificates and ratings. The proposed subpart I primarily addresses issues unique to the ground instructor certificate. Some of the major differences between proposed subpart I and part 143 would include the following:

7. Eligibility and Tests

The proposal for the ground instructor certificate and rating would establish a requirement for English-language ability, and would include the testing requirements. The required tests would include a test on the fundamentals of instructing, except for persons who are certificated teachers at or above the seventh grade level, employed as college or university instructors, or already hold a ground or flight instructor certificate. An additional knowledge test specific to the aircraft rating sought and an instrument knowledge test in the case of an instrument rating, would be required as well as a practical test.

Another proposed provision would preclude the holder of a flight instructor certificate from taking tests for and obtaining a ground instructor certificate with the same aircraft category as already specified on the person's flight instructor certificate. This provision is needed because the ground instructor certificate would not grant additional privileges, but the process of obtaining it only adds to the FAA's workload because of the additional tests. However, the applicant may seek a ground instructor rating for a different aircraft category (i.e., a person who holds flight instructor-airplane single engine may apply for a ground instructor-rotorcraft, etc.).

Some commenters recommended that a single "aviation instructor certificate," be established in lieu of separate flight or ground instructor certificates. An aviation instructor certificate could specify ground or flight instructor privileges or both. After reviewing this recommendation, the FAA believes the required knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to instruct in the different aircraft categories and classes and differences between flight instructing and ground instructing makes this difficult to comprehend how this would be better than the current system. However, the FAA does request comments on this issue.

8. Training Requirements

An applicant for a ground instructor certificate would have to receive ground training on required aeronautical knowledge areas and fundamentals of instructing from a person who meets minimum experience requirements. The person giving the training would have to have at least 24 months experience as a ground instructor or flight instructor, and have given at least 40 hours of flight or ground training. However, if the ground instructor candidate is receiving training in a course approved under part 141, the person giving the training could

either meet the 24-month and 40-hour experience requirement, or could have given 100 hours of ground or flight training. As an alternative, the applicant, under the proposal, could also accomplish the preparation through an independent, or home study program. Such preparation would have to be reviewed by an authorized instructor who meets the same experience requirements; the instructor would be required to sign an endorsement of the applicant's independent course of study.

9. Proficiency

The practical test for a ground instructor certificate would cover approved areas of operation including preparing and conducting lesson plans, evaluating student knowledge, and analyzing and correcting common student errors. An applicant would be required to teach a ground school lesson as part of the practical test. The training for the practical test would have to be given by a person who meets the same minimum experience requirements as for the knowledge test, although no minimum amount of training would be specified. The practical test would be administered by an examiner. An applicant for an additional ground instructor rating would not be required to take a practical test.

10. Privileges and Limitations

Subject to the limitations specified in part 61, a ground instructor would be permitted to give ground training for aeronautical knowledge areas; give endorsements required for pilot, ground instructor, and flight instructor certificates and ratings; give the ground training portion of the flight review; and give recommendations for knowledge tests.

11. Records

Under the proposed recordkeeping requirements, a ground instructor would note in a student's logbook or training record information for each training session; i.e., the amount of time of the lesson, date, and topics. The ground instructor would be required to maintain a record of the following information: the name of each student whose logbook or training record that instructor endorsed for satisfactory completion of a course; the name of each student endorsed for a knowledge test and the results of the test; the name of each student endorsed or recommended for a practical test and the date of the endorsement or recommendation; and a copy of the training syllabus for each student trained. The records would be required