Section 61.153 Eligibility Requirements: General

In order to accommodate proposed "§ 61.151 Applicability," existing "§ 61.151 Eligibility requirements: General" would be renumbered § 61.153.

The significant proposed changes in this section are as follows:

- (1) Eliminates the existing requirement for an applicant to be able to "speak [the English language] without accent or impediment of speech that would interfere with two-way radio conversation." However, applicants would be required to read, speak, write, and understand the English language to be eligible to apply for the ATP certificate.
- (2) Permits applicants to only hold a third-class medical certificate at the time of the practical test. However as currently required, an ATP would be required to hold a first class medical certificate for operations requiring an ATP certificate.
- (3) Requires an applicant to hold a commercial pilot certificate and an instrument rating, before applying for the ATP certificate.
- (4) Eliminates the requirement that an applicant be a "high school graduate or its equivalent in the Administrator's opinion, based on the applicant's general experience and aeronautical experience, knowledge, and skill."
- (5) Includes a proposal to revise the eligibility requirements for all certificates and ratings by specifying that an applicant would be required to:
- a. Meet the aeronautical experience requirements for the category and class rating sought before applying for the flight portion of the practical test;

b. Pass the required knowledge test;

and

- c. Pass the required practical test. (6) Clarify that an applicant need not possess the aeronautical experience requirements for an ATP certificate before taking the knowledge test. Applicants for other certificates and ratings currently are not required to obtain aeronautical experience requirements before taking the appropriate knowledge test. However, current § 61.153 requires an applicant for an ATP certificate with an airplane rating to meet the experience requirements in §61.155 before applying to take the ATP knowledge test. In keeping with procedures for other knowledge tests, proposed § 61.153 would permit applicants to take the ATP knowledge test before obtaining the hours necessary to become an ATP.
- (7) Includes requirements found in existing § 61.155 for applicants who are

military pilots and applicants who hold a pilot license issued by a member State of ICAO.

Section 61.155 Aeronautical Knowledge

In order to accommodate proposed "§ 61.151 Applicability," existing "§ 61.153 Airplane rating: Aeronautical knowledge" would be renumbered § 61.155, and retitled to read "Aeronautical knowledge." Proposed § 61.155 would combine the aeronautical knowledge requirements for applicants of airplane, helicopter, and powered-lift ratings.

The proposed revisions to this section are as follows:

- (1) Establishes all of the required aeronautical knowledge areas in this section. Currently, the aeronautical knowledge areas are located in separate sections of subpart F.
- (2) Adds aeronautical knowledge requirements on windshear avoidance and aeronautical decision making and judgment.
- (3) Clarifies that an applicant for a type rating would not be required to take an additional knowledge test, if the applicant already holds an ATP certificate with the appropriate category ratings.

Section 61.157 Flight Proficiency

The FAA proposes to change the title of existing § 61.155 "Airplane rating: Aeronautical experience" to read § 61.157 "Flight proficiency." The aeronautical experience requirements for an airplane rating would appear in proposed § 61.159. Proposed § 61.157 would combine the flight proficiency requirements for applicants of airplane, helicopter, and powered-lift ratings.

The significant proposed revisions in this section are as follows:

- (1) Includes separate and revised areas of operation for the airplane category-single engine class rating, airplane category-multiengine class rating, rotorcraft category-helicopter class rating, and powered-lift category rating.
- (2) Replaces the term, "flight proficiency requirements" with the term, "approved areas of operation," so the terminology in this section is the same as the other rules of part 61.
- (3) Includes an administrative clarification that the type ratings on the superseded pilot certificate for the category and class of aircraft that the person satisfactorily accomplished the ATP practical test in will be elevated to the ATP certificate level.

Section 61.159 Aeronautical Experience: Airplane Category Rating

The FAA proposes to revise and redesignate § 61.157, "Airplane rating: Aeronautical skill," to read § 61.159 "Aeronautical experience: Airplane category rating."

Proposed § 61.159 would include the existing aeronautical experience requirements for an airplane category rating with no substantive changes.

Section 61.161 Aeronautical Experience: Rotorcraft Category and Helicopter Class Rating With a Type Rating

Existing "§ 61.159 Rotorcraft rating: Aeronautical knowledge" would be moved to proposed § 61.155. The FAA proposes to revise and redesignate § 61.161, "Rotorcraft rating: Aeronautical experience," to read § 61.161, "Aeronautical experience: Rotorcraft category and helicopter class rating with a type rating." Proposed § 61.161 will include the existing aeronautical experience requirements for a rotorcraft category rating with no substantive changes.

Section 61.163 Aeronautical Experience: Powered-Lift Category Rating

The FAA proposes to redesignate this section as § 61.163 "Aeronautical experience: Powered-lift category rating." Proposed § 61.163 will list the aeronautical experience requirements for an ATP certificate with a powered-lift category rating. Existing § 61.161, "Rotorcraft rating: Aeronautical skill," would be eliminated. The provisions of existing § 61.161 would be adequately covered by proposed §§ 61.43 and 61.153.

Section 61.165 Additional Aircraft Category Ratings

Proposed § 61.165 "Additional aircraft category ratings" would be a redesignation of existing § 61.165, "Additional category ratings."

The FAA proposes to add a poweredlift category rating to this section.

Section 61.167 General Privileges and Limitations

Proposed § 61.167 would be a redesignation of existing § 61.171. Proposed § 61.167 would contain the current limitation found in existing § 61.155(d). That limitation applies to applicants who credit SIC or flight engineer time in meeting the total time requirement for an ATP certificate. Existing § 61.167, "Tests," would be eliminated. The rules for the knowledge and practical test are found in proposed §§ 61.35 and 61.43.