Civil Aeronautics Manual 25

Parachute Rigger Certificates



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N. E. HALABY, *Administrator*

NOTE

This manual contains Civil Air Regulations Part 25 dated April 15, 1958, amendment 25-1 effective November 27, 1961, and the editoral changes required by Special Regulation SR-430 effective December 31, 1958.

As amendments and other pertinent materials pertaining to Part 25 are issued, they will be included in this manual.

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Contents

	Section	Page
Applicability and Definitions		
Applicability of this part	25.0	1
Definitions	25.1	1
Certification Rules		
Application for certificate	25.5	1
Issuance	25.6	1
Duration	25.7	2
Display	25.9	2
Change of address	25.10	2
General Certificate Requirements		
Citizenship	25.21	2
Age	25.22	2
Education	25.23	2
Examinations and tests	25.24	2
Reexamination after failure	25.25	2
Type ratings	25.26	3
Rating competence	25.27	3
Substantiation of experience	25.28	3
Qualifications for a Parachute Rigger Certificate		
General	25.40	3
Experience	25.41	3
Knowledge	25.42	3
Skill	25.43	3
Military competence	25.44	3
Privileges	25.45	3
Qualifications for a Master Parachute Rigger Certificate		
General	25.60	4
Experience	25.61	4
Knowledge	25.62	4
Skill	25.63	4
Privileges	25.64	4
Operating Rules		
General	25.80	4
Facilities and equipment	25.81	4
Performance standards	25.82	5
Seal	25.83	5
Required records	25.84	5
Recent experience requirements	25.85	5
Appendix		
Special Civil Air Regulation No. SR–397		7
Addendum		
Preambles to Amendments to Part 25		P–1

Parachute Rigger Certificates

Applicability and Definitions

25.0 ***Applicability of this part.*** **This part establishes the requirements for the issuance of parachute rigger and master parachute rigger certificates and ratings, provides for the privileges of such certificates, and establishes basic operating rules for the packing, repair, maintenance, alteration, and inspection of personnel-carrying parachutes for use in connection with civil aircraft of the United States.**

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958; Amendment 25–1, published in 26 F.R. 10042, Oct. 26, 1961, effective Nov. 27, 1961.)

25.1 ***Definitions.*** **As used in this part terms are defined as follows:**

Alteration. **Alteration means any change in the design of a parachute.**

Authorized representative of the Administrator. **An authorized representative of the Administrator is any employee of the Federal Aviation Agency or any private person, authorized by the Administrator to perform any of the duties imposed upon him by the provisions of this part.**

Certificated parachute rigger. **A certificated parachute rigger is an individual holding a parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings issued by the Administrator.**

Maintenance. **Maintenance means the upkeep and preservation of parachutes, including the component parts thereof.**

Major repair. **A major repair is a repair which might have an effect on the structural, functional, or handling characteristics of a parachute.**

Manufacturer. **A manufacturer is any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, or joint stock association, including any trustee, assignee, or other similar representative thereof, which**

(a) Holds a type or production certificate for a parachute, or

(b) Manufactures an approved parachute.

Minor repair. **A minor repair is a repair other than a major repair.**

Parachute. **A parachute is a contrivance, including its component parts, designed to retard the descent of a falling body or object through the air.**

Repair. **Repair means the restoration of a parachute to a condition for safe use after damage or deterioration.**

To pack. **To pack means to arrange properly a parachute in its container for use.**

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

Certification Rules

25.5 ***Application for certificate.*** **An application for a parachute rigger certificate and ratings shall be made on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Administrator.**

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.6 ***Issuance.***

(a) A parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall be issued by the Administrator to an applicant who meets the requirements of this part.

(b) Pending a review of an application for a certificate and supplementary documents and the issuance of a certificate by the Administrator, an authorized representative of the Administrator may, subject to such conditions and limitations as the Administrator may prescribe, issue a temporary parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings to an applicant who meets the requirements of this part.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.7 *Duration.*

(a) A parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings issued to a United States citizen shall remain in effect until surrendered, suspended, revoked, or otherwise terminated by order of the Board. After revocation, and upon request after suspension, the certificate shall be returned to the Administrator.

(b) A parachute rigger certificate issued to an applicant other than a United States citizen shall remain in effect for a period no longer than 12 months after the date of issuance, but it may be reissued without further demonstration of technical competence.

(c) A temporary parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall remain in effect for no longer than 3 months after the date of issuance.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny or defeat the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts, the Administrator, or the Board to impose any authorized sanction, including revocation of the certificate, for a violation of the Act or the Civil Air Regulations occurring during the effective period of the certificate.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.9 *Display.* A parachute rigger shall, upon request, present his airman certificate for examination by any authorized representative of the Civil Aeronautics Board or Administrator or by any State or local law enforcement officer.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.10 *Change of address.* Within 30 days after any change in the permanent mailing address of a certificated parachute rigger, he shall notify the Administrator in writing of his new address. The notice shall be mailed to the Examination and Records Division, Federal Aviation Agency, 621 North Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City 2, Oklahoma.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

General Certificate Requirements

25.21 *Citizenship.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate may be a citizen of any country or a person without nationality.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.22 *Age.* 18 years is the minimum age for the issuance of a parachute rigger certificate.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.23 *Education.* An applicant shall be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language: *Provided,* That a citizen of Puerto Rico, or an applicant who is employed by an air carrier outside the United States, need not be able to read, write, speak, or understand the English language except that a certificate issued to such an applicant shall be valid only in Puerto Rico, or only while employed by an air carrier outside the United States, as the case may be.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.24 *Examinations and tests.* Examinations and tests shall be conducted by an authorized representative of the Administrator at such times and places as the Administrator may designate. The passing grade for all oral and written examinations shall be at least 70 percent. The practical examination shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the authorized representative of the Administrator.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.25 *Reexamination after failure.* An applicant who has failed any prescribed written or practical examination or test may not apply for reexamination within a 30-day period unless he presents a statement signed by a certificated master parachute rigger, or an individual in charge of a military parachute department that he has received an additional 5 hours of instruction in the subject or subjects failed and is considered competent to pass the examination or test.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.26 *Type ratings.* The following type ratings shall be issued:

(a) Seat,

(b) Back,

(c) Chest, and

(d) Special purpose.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.27 *Rating competence.* An applicant for a type rating shall have packed at least 20 parachutes of the type for which the rating is sought in accordance with the manufacturer's packing instructions and under the supervision of a certificated master parachute rigger holding a rating for such type or an individual holding an appropriate military rating, and shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator competence in the packing, maintenance, repair, and inspection of such type.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.28 *Substantiation of experience.* An applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the Administrator to substantiate the experience qualifications for the parachute rigger certificate or rating applied for.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

Qualifications for a Parachute Rigger Certificate

25.40 *General.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate shall meet the following experience, knowledge, and skill requirements.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.41 *Experience.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall have packed satisfactorily at least 20 parachutes of each type for which a rating is sought, in accordance with the manufacturer's packing instructions, and under the supervision of a certificated master parachute rigger holding a rating for such type or an individual holding an appropriate military rating.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.42 *Knowledge.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate shall satisfactorily accomplish an oral, written, and practical examination on the construction, packing, maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of, the manufacturer's instructions with respect to, at least one type of parachute in common civilian use, and the provisions of this part.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.43 *Skill.* An applicant shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he has the ability to pack, maintain, inspect, and repair at least one type of parachute in common civilian use.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.44 *Military competence.* The Administrator may issue a parachute rigger certificate and appropriate ratings to an applicant who satisfactorily accomplishes a written examination on the provisions of this part and presents reliable documentary evidence showing:

(a) That he is a member of the regular or reserve armed forces of the United States; or that he is a civilian employee of the regular armed forces of the United States; or that he is a United States citizen and is either a member or civilian employee of the regular armed forces of a foreign government; or that he has been honorably discharged or released from such status within 12 months preceding the date of application; and

(b) That he is serving, or has, within 12 months preceding the date of application, served in such organization or organizations as a parachute rigger; and

(c) That he meets the experience requirements of this part for the issuance of an appropriate parachute rigger certificate.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.45 *Privileges.* A certificated parachute rigger may maintain, pack, inspect, and perform minor repairs on any type of parachute for which he is rated.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

Qualifications for a Master Parachute Rigger Certificate

25.60 *General.* An applicant for a master parachute rigger certificate shall meet the following experience, knowledge, and skill requirements.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.61 *Experience.* An applicant for a master parachute rigger certificate shall:

(a) Have had at least 5 years of experience as a parachute rigger; and

(b) Have packed satisfactorily not less than 100 parachutes of each of 2 types in common civilian use.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.62 *Knowledge.* An applicant shall satisfactorily accomplish an oral and practical test covering the construction, inspection, packing, maintenance, repair, and use of, and the manufacturer's instructions with respect to, at least 2 different types of parachutes in common civilian use.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.63 *Skill.* An applicant shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he has the ability to pack, maintain, inspect, and repair at least 2 types of parachutes in common civilian use and has the ability to supervise others in the accomplishment of such operations.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.64 *Privileges.* A certificated master parachute rigger may:

(a) Maintain, pack, inspect, repair, and alter any type of parachute for which he holds a rating; and

(b) Instruct other individuals in the proper methods and procedures of constructing, packing, maintaining, and using the types of parachutes for which he holds ratings.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

Operating Rules

25.80 *General.*

(a) *Personnel-carrying parachutes for emergency use.* No individual shall pack, repair, maintain, alter, or inspect any parachute intended for emergency use by an individual, including the auxiliary parachute of a dual parachute pack to be used for intentional jumping, unless he is an appropriately certificated parachute rigger or master parachute rigger, and complies with the provisions of sections 25.81 through 25.85.

(b) *Personnel-carrying parachutes for nonemergency use.* No individual shall pack, repair, maintain, alter, or inspect any main parachute of a dual parachute pack to be used by an individual for intentional jumping, unless he is an appropriately certificated parachute rigger or master parachute rigger: *Provided,* That an individual who does not hold a parachute rigger or master parachute rigger certificate may pack the main parachute of a dual parachute pack which will be used exclusively by him for intentional jumping: *And provided further,* That a certificated parachute rigger or master parachute rigger need not comply with the provisions of sections 25.81 through 25.85 when engaged in packing, repairing, maintaining, altering, or inspecting the main parachute of a dual parachute pack to be used for intentional jumping.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958; Amendment 25–1, published in 26 F.R. 10042, Oct. 26, 1961, effective Nov. 27, 1961.)

25.81 *Facilities and equipment.* A certificated parachute rigger shall have available the following minimum facilities and equipment:

(a) A smooth-top table measuring at least 3 feet by 40 feet;

(b) A compartment where parachutes may be suspended vertically for drying and airing;

(c) Sufficient packing tools and other equipment to pack, maintain, and repair the type of parachute being serviced; and

(d) Adequate housing facilities for the proper performance of the duties of a parachute rigger and for the protection of tools and equipment.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.82 *Performance standards.* No certificated parachute rigger shall:

(a) Pack or perform any maintenance, repair, or alteration on any type of parachute unless rated for such type;

(b) Pack any parachute which is not in a safe condition for emergency use;

(c) Pack any parachute unless such parachute has been thoroughly dried and aired;

(d) Pack any parachute in a manner not specified in the manufacturer's instructions; or

(e) Make any alteration not specifically authorized by the manufacturer or the Administrator, or in any way deviate from the procedures approved by the manufacturer or Administrator for the maintenance, repair, alteration, packing, or inspection of parachutes.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.83 *Seal.* Each certificated parachute rigger shall have a seal bearing an individual identifying mark assigned by the Administrator and a seal press available for use. When packing or repacking any parachute, the certificated parachute rigger shall seal each pack with his individual seal in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations for the particular type of parachute.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.84 *Required records.*

(a) *Operation record.* Each certificated parachute rigger shall keep a bound record of all packing, inspection, maintenance, repair, and alteration operations performed or supervised by him on parachutes other than those in military service. This record shall contain the type and make of parachute, its serial number, the name and address of its owner, the kind and extent of the operation performed, the date and place where performed, and the results of any drop test made. Where major repairs and alterations are performed, each certificated parachute rigger shall execute such major repair and alteration forms as may be prescribed by the Administrator and shall deliver copies of such forms to the owner of the parachute and to the Administrator. These records shall be retained for at least 2 years after the date of the last entry therein.

(b) *Parachute packing record.* Each certificated parachute rigger packing a parachute other than that used in military service shall enter on the parachute packing record attached to the parachute the date and place of such packing or repacking and a notation of any defects found upon inspection. The rigger shall sign such record and enter thereon the number of his parachute rigger certificate.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

25.85 *Recent experience requirements.* No certificated parachute rigger shall exercise the privileges of his parachute rigger certificate unless he is familiar with the current manufacturers' instructions pertinent to the particular operation, and

(a) Has performed the duties of a parachute rigger under the terms of his certificate and ratings for at least 90 days within the preceding 12-month period, or

(b) Has demonstrated to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he is competent to perform the duties of a parachute rigger under the terms of his certificate and ratings.

(Rev. Part 25, published in 23 F.R. 1781, Mar. 15, 1958, effective Apr. 15, 1958.)

NOTE: The reporting and record-keeping requirements of this part have been approved by the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with the Federal Reports Act of 1942.

Appendix

SPECIAL CIVIL AIR REGULATION NO. SR–397

Effective: June 30, 1953
Adopted: June 30, 1953

Authorization for the United States Forest Service to Deviate from the Civil Air Regulations

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture uses both public and civil aircraft to carry personnel and equipment to fire areas. The aircraft and pilots are certificated and, where possible, Forest Service operations are conducted in accordance with the Civil Air Regulations. In order to deal effectively with fire control and other Forest Service specialized activities, however, it is often necessary to use uncertificated personnel as parachute riggers during peakload periods, to remove seats and safety belts from aircraft in which firefighters are carried, to drop equipment and supplies from aircraft, and to deviate from other provisions of the Civil Air Regulations such as minimum altitudes and visibility conditions. Due to the exigencies of the particular situation, it is usually impracticable for the Forest Service to seek authority in each particular instance to deviate from the provisions of the Civil Air Regulations. In view of the public service rendered by this organization and the well-organized supervisory control which the Forest Service exercises over its operations, it is considered desirable that the Board authorize the Forest Service to deviate from the Civil Air Regulations and normal practices thereunder when necessary for their operations.

This regulation authorizes the Chief of the Forest Service to permit aircraft and airmen, while engaged in Forest Service operations, to deviate from the Civil Air Regulations to the extent that he finds necessary for the expeditious conduct of such operations. The regulation also provides that the Administrator shall establish a procedure for notification by the Chief of the Forest Service of those deviations which he has authorized.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this regulation, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented. Since this regulation imposes no additional burden on any person, it may be made effective without prior notice.

In consideration of the foregoing the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby makes and promulgates the following Special Civil Air Regulation, effective immediately:

Contrary provisions of the Civil Air Regulations notwithstanding, the Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is authorized to permit aircraft and airmen, while engaged in operations conducted for the United States Forest Service, to deviate from the provisions of the Civil Air Regulations to the extent that he finds necessary for the expeditious conduct of such operations. The Chief, Forest Service, shall notify the Administrator of any deviation which he has authorized and the reasons therefor in accordance with a procedure established by the Administrator.

Addendum

Preambles of Amendments to Civil Air Regulations Part 25

NOTE

Part 25 of the Civil Air Regulations was last revised by the Civil Aeronautics Board on March 12, 1958, to become effective April 15, 1958. The preamble of the revised part and the preamble of amendment 25–1 are given in the attached pages. The preambles of future amendments will be added to this addendum as they are issued.

Revision Part 25

Parachute Rigger Certificates

Adopted: March 12, 1958
Effective: April 15, 1958
Published: March 15, 1958
(23 F.R. 1781)

Because of the number of outstanding amendments to Part 25, it has been decided to issue a revision of this part, incorporating all amendments thereto in effect on April 15, 1958. Attention is called also to the following minor changes which have been made:

(1) All definitions in section 25.1 have been arranged alphabetically, without subsection numbers. Also, minor editorial changes have been made for the purpose of obtaining uniformity in language with other parts of the Civil Air Regulations.

(2) As ample time has been allowed for the exchange of parachute technician certificates and special ratings issued prior to September 5, 1950, sections 25.8 and 25.11 have been deleted and none of these certificates will be exchanged after the effective date of this revision.

Since the changes effected by this revision are minor in nature and impose no additional burden on any person, notice and public procedure hereon are unnecessary.

Amendment 25–1

Operating Rules for the Packing, Repair, Maintenance, Alteration, and Inspection of Parachutes

Adopted: Oct. 20, 1961
Effective: Nov. 27, 1961
Published: Oct. 26, 1961
(26 F.R. 10042)

The Federal Aviation Agency published as a notice of proposed rule making (26 F.R. 4289) and circulated as Civil Air Regulations Draft Release No. 61–8 on May 17, 1961, a proposal to amend Part 25 of the Civil Air Regulations to alleviate the burden imposed upon those persons engaged in activities where personnel-carrying parachutes are used exclusively for intentional jumping. In this respect, the Agency is aware that there are numerous parachute clubs throughout the country organized for the purpose of making sport parachuting a safe recreational activity. To accomplish this, these self-governing clubs have established safety rules to strictly control all sport jumping activities of their members. Among other things, experienced club approved safety officers monitor the condition and packing of parachute equipment used by the sport parachutist.

The effectiveness of these parachute clubs in achieving a high degree of safety in parachuting activities has been well demonstrated since 1959 under the provisions of exemptions granted by the Agency, whereby, about 90 percent of all parachute club members have been permitted to pack the main parachute used exclusively by them for sport jumping.

This amendment to Part 25 provides that a noncertificated individual may pack the main parachute of a dual parachute pack to be used exclusively by him for intentional jumping. Additionally, it authorizes an appropriately certificated rigger to deviate from the provisions of sections 25.81 through 25.85 when performing services in connection with the main parachute of a dual parachute pack used for intentional jumping. However, this amendment requires that personnel-carrying parachutes intended for emergency use, including the auxiliary parachute of a dual parachute pack, must be packed, repaired, maintained, altered, and inspected in an approved manner by appropriately certificated and rated riggers.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this regulation, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matters presented.

Amendment revised sections 25.0 and 25.80.

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