Department of Commerce
Bureau of Air Commerce

C I V I L A I R R E G U L A T I O N S

02. AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION MARK

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02.0 PROVISION FOR ISSUANCE: Pursuant to the provisions of the Air Commerce Act declaring that the Government of the United States has complete and exclusive sovereignty of the air space over the lands and waters of the United States and requiring the Secretary of Commerce to establish air traffic rules for the navigation, protection, and identification of aircraft, every aircraft (except a foreign aircraft) entering the navigable air space over the lands and waters of the United States shall be possessed of, and shall display, an identification mark issued therefor by the Secretary.

02.1 CHARACTER: An aircraft identification mark will consist of one or more Roman capital letters and a number.

02.10 International Symbol: The Roman capital letter N will appear first in the identification mark of aircraft of the United States.

02.11 Classification Symbol: The international symbol N will be followed in the mark by the Roman capital letter C, R, or K, or by a bar, for the purpose of classifying the aircraft as to its airworthiness, as follows:

02.110 (a) The letter C will classify the aircraft as complying fully with the airworthiness requirements of CAR 04., 05., 06., or 07., as the case may be, for aircraft in which persons other than bona fide members of the crew may be carried for or without hire.

02.111 (b) The letter R will classify the aircraft as complying in some limited respect with the airworthiness requirements of CAR 04., 05., 06., or 07., as the case may be. The aircraft certificate of an aircraft

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in this classification will specify the use, or uses, for which such aircraft is deemed airworthy.

02.112 (c) The letter X will classify the aircraft as one whose airworthiness rating has not been established, but which, after satisfactory ground inspection and flight demonstration, may be flown over a limited area, as specified in the aircraft certificate, for purposes of experimentation by its constructor.

02.113 (d) The bar symbol,—, will classify the aircraft as one whose airworthiness rating has not been established. An aircraft so classified is an uncertified aircraft.

02.12 Number: The classification symbol will be followed in the mark by a number issued for purposes of further identification.

02.2 ISSUANCE:

02.20 Permanent Assignment: The aircraft identification mark will be assigned by the Secretary at the time of issuance of the registration certificate and will be inserted in the body of each certificate.

02.21 Temporary Assignment: Pending the issuance of the permanent assignment, a temporary assignment of the number of an identification mark may be made by a Bureau inspector by insertion in the temporary registration certificate provided for in CAR 00.31.

02.3 LOCATION FOR DISPLAY:

02.30 Conventional Airplanes and Gliders: The mark on such aircraft shall be located on the lower surface of the lower left wing and on the upper surface of the upper right wing. If, in a biplane, the lower left wing space is less than one-half that of the upper left wing, the mark shall be located on the lower surface of the upper left wing, as far to the left as is possible. The top of the letters and numbers shall be toward the leading edge. The height of the letters and numbers shall be at least 30 inches on airplanes and at least 15 inches on gliders. The mark shall also be located on both sides of the vertical tail surface, of size as large as a 2 inch margin will permit.

02.31 Unconventional Aircraft: Marks on such aircraft will be located a deemed satisfactory to the Secretary upon examination of a three-view scale drawing of the aircraft.

02.32 Airships: The mark on such aircraft shall be located on both sides at a distance back from the nose equal to one-fourth of the total airship length, and so located vertically as to lie halfway between the bottom line of the airship surface and the point of maximum beam. The height of the letters and figures shall be one-twelfth of the maximum non-sectional circumference, but need not exceed four feet.

02.33 Balloons: The mark on such aircraft shall be located at two opposite points near but below the maximum horizontal perimeter. The height of the letters and figures shall equal at least one-twelfth of such perimeter, but need not exceed four feet.

02.4 LETTERING:

02.40 Type: The width of the letters and figures (except the figure 1) shall be at least two-thirds of their height. The width of each stroke shall be at least one-sixth of the height of the letters and numbers, which shall be of uniform size.

02.41 Color: The letters and numbers shall be painted on the aircraft in any color on any background provided there is a strong contrast.

02.42 Legibility: Except with the approval of the Secretary, no other design, mark, symbol or description shall be placed upon an aircraft if such design, etc., modifies, adds to, detracts from, or confuses the assigned mark or destroys its legibility. The assigned marks shall be kept clean and clearly visible.