Affects Part: 20

Regulation No. SR-434A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Effective: September 9, 1961
Issued: September 5, 1961

Special Civil Air Regulation No. SR-434A

[Reg. Docket No. 60; Reg. No. SR-434A]

PART 20—PILOT AND INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATES

Elimination of Requirement for 100-Mile Solo Flight Experience for Issuance of Private Pilot Certificate on Island of Okinawa; Special Civil Air Regulation

Section 20.34(c) of the Civil Air Regulations presently provides that the aeronautical experience necessary for issuance of a private pilot certificate shall include 10 hours of solo cross-country flight time, at least one flight of which shall include a landing at a point more than 100 miles from the point of departure. The Naha Air Base Aero Club, a flying club composed of U.S. civil and military personnel located at the Sukiran Army Air Field on Okinawa and sponsored by the United States Air Force was granted, on July 9, 1959, an exemption from the requirements of § 20.34(c) because the island is not large enough to permit the required 100-mile flight. The Naha Club has requested that the exemption granted in Special Civil Air Regulation No. SR-434 which expired on June 30, 1961, be renewed for an indefinite period.

Okinawa is some 60 miles long and from 2 to 22 miles wide. The maximum distance between airports on the island is some 40 miles. Landings more than 100 miles from a point of departure on Okinawa may be made on other islands in the area, but such other islands are not equipped with adequate landing areas and flights to such landing areas would expose pilot trainees to the unnecessary hazard of overwater operations.

The purpose of the requirement for a 100-mile solo cross-country flight is to develop the necessary skills in navigation from maps and unfamiliar visual landmarks. The experience to be gained from a 100-mile cross-country flight would not be of any special value or assistance to a private pilot flying on Okinawa over that to be gained from a 40-mile cross-country flight on Okinawa. It appears that such a 40-mile flight as part of the 10 hours of solo cross-country flight time required by § 20.34(c) would so familiarize a pilot with the landmarks and terrain of the area in which he would be flying as to constitute an adequate standard of safety for issuance of a private pilot certificate for the island of Okinawa. A pilot holding such a certificate who may wish to obtain a certificate without limitation to Okinawa would still be required to comply with the experience requirement for the 100-mile solo cross-country flight prescribed by § 20.34(c).

Accordingly, Special Civil Air Regulation No. SR-434 was issued to permit such pilots to obtain a limited private pilot certificate without compliance with the 100-mile solo cross-country flight requirement of § 20.34(c). The conditions under which SR-434 was issued have not changed and since this regulation imposes no additional burden on any person, relieves a restriction, and constitutes a grant of exemption, compliance with the notice, public participation, and effective date provisions of section 4 of the Administrative Procedure Act is unnecessary.

In consideration of the foregoing, the following Special Civil Air Regulation is hereby promulgated to become effective September 9, 1961:

1. The provision of § 20.34(c) of Part 20 of the Civil Air Regulations with respect to a 100-mile solo cross-country flight shall not apply to the issuance of a private pilot certificate to an applicant who demonstrates on the island of Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, that he is otherwise eligible for issuance of such a certificate and who has completed a solo cross-country flight between those airports on Okinawa which are the farthest apart. A pilot certificate issued pursuant to this regulation shall contain the following limitation:

The holder shall not pilot any aircraft carrying passengers except on flights over the island of Okinawa and within a radius of 40 miles from the airport of take-off.

2. The holder of a private pilot certificate issued subject to the limitations provided in paragraph 1 of this regulation may obtain a private pilot certificate without such limitation upon presentation to an inspector of the Federal Aviation Agency of satisfactory evidence of compliance with the 100-mile solo flight experience requirement of § 20.34 (c) and after satisfactorily accomplishing a practical examination with respect to the procedures and maneuvers prescribed by § 20.35(b).

This special regulation renews the provisions contained in Special Civil Air Regulation No. SR-434, which expired on June 30, 1961, and shall continue in effect until superseded or revoked.

(Secs. 313(a), 72 Stat. 752; 49 U.S.C. 1354(a). Interpret or apply secs. 601, 602, 72 Stat. 775, 776; 49 U.S.C. 1421, 1422)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 5, 1961.

N. E. HALABY,
Administrator.

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