Affects Part: 20
Distribution: General

Regulation No. SR-434

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

Effective: July 14, 1959
Issued: July 9, 1959

SPECIAL CIVIL AIR REGULATION

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

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 Sukiran Army Air-Field on Okinawa and sponsored by the United States Air Force, has requested an exemption from the requirements of § 20.34(c) because the island is not large enough to permit the required 100-mile flight.

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, this Special Civil Air Regulation is 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). Since this regulation imposes no additional burden on any person, relieves a present 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 July 14, 1959:

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).

3. No private pilot certificate shall be issued under paragraph 1 of this regulation after June 30, 1961.

(Sec. 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 July 9, 1959.

JAMES T. PYLE,
Acting Administrator.

JULY 9, 1959.

[F.R. Doc. 59-5811; Filed, July 13, 1959; 8:51 a.m.]

Published in 24 F. R. 5634, July 14, 1959

 USCOMM-DC-20089