FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

PART 48

CIVIL AIR REGULATIONS

OPERATION RULES
FOR MOORED BALLOONS AND KITES

JUNE 4, 1962

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

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Introductory Note

Part 48 of the Civil Air Regulations was last printed for distribution in August 1959, in Civil Aeronautics Manual 48 (CAM 48). On March 30, 1962, CAM 48 was rescinded by the Administrator and concurrently a revised Part 48 was adopted to replace it. Part 48 was revised to provide greater clarity in the regulations and to ease the restrictions formerly placed on the operator. As amendments to Part 48 are issued, they will be published as page revisions to this publication.

This revised Part 48 was published in the Federal Register on April 5, 1962, (27 F.R. 3235), effective June 4, 1962, and supersedes Part 48 dated August 28, 1947, and all amendments thereto.

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OPERATION RULES FOR MOORED BALLOONS AND KITES

Subpart A—General

48.1 *Applicability.* This Part applies to the operation of moored balloons and kites in the United States.

Note: Radio transmitting equipment used in conjunction with operations under this Part must be licensed as required by the Federal Communications Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

48.2 *Waiver for noncompliance.* Operations requiring deviation from this Part may be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Certificate of Waiver issued by the Administrator. Information regarding Certificates of Waiver may be obtained from any FAA office.

48.3 *Definitions.* As used in this Part:

Balloon means a lighter-than-air aircraft that is not engine driven.

Kite means a framework, covered with paper, cloth, metal, or other material, intended to be flown at the end of a rope or cable and having as its only support the force of the wind moving past its surface. It includes a gyro-glider attached by towline to a vehicle on the surface.

Moored balloon means a balloon that is secured by a rope or cable to the surface of the earth or an object thereon.

48.4 *Avoidance of prohibited and restricted areas.* Operations under this Part may not be conducted within a prohibited area or a restrirted area unless prior permission has been obtained from the using agency or the controlling agency, as appropriate.

Subpart B—Moored Balloons and Kites

48.10 *Applicability.* This subpart applies to moored balloons having a diameter of more than six feet or a gas capacity of more than 115 cubic feet and to kites weighing more than five pounds. Operations conducted within restricted areas need comply only with § 48.14 and with such additional limitations as may be imposed by the using agency or controlling agency.

48.11 *Operational limitations.*

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section a moored balloon or kite may not be operated:

(1) Closer than 500 feet to the base of any clouds;

(2) At more than 500 feet above the surface;

(3) From an area where the ground visibility is less than three miles; or

(4) Within five miles of the boundary of any airport.

(b) Paragraph (a) of this section is inapplicable to the operation of any moored balloon or kite below the height of any structure within 250 feet if such shielded operation does not obscure any lighting on such structure.

48.12 *Notice requirements.* A moored balloon or kite may not be operated unshielded between 150 and 500 feet above the surface of the earth unless at least 24 hours prior notice is given to the nearest FAA air traffic control facility. This notice shall include:

(a) Names and addresses of the owners and operators;

(b) The size of the balloon or the size and weight of the kite;

(c) The geographical location of the operation;

(d) The altitude above the surface at which the balloon or kite is to be operated; and

(e) Date, time, and duration of operation.

48.13 *Lighting and marking requirements.* A moored balloon or kite shall not be operated unless:

(a) During the hours of darkness, lighting is displayed on the balloon, kite, and mooring lines which affords a visual warning equal to that required for obstructions to air navigation. (This information is included in FAA's publication "Obstruction Marking and Lighting," available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office.) A lighted advertising display or ground lighting by flood lights which meets such requirements is acceptable.

(b) During the hours of daylight, the mooring lines have colored pennants or streamers attached at no more than 50-foot intervals, beginning at 150 feet above the surface of the earth and which are visible from at least one mile.

48.14 *Rapid deflation device.* Moored balloons shall be equipped with a device or means that will automatically and rapidly deflate the balloon in the event of an escape from its moorings. If such device does not function properly, the nearest air traffic control facility shall be notified immediately of the location and time of escape and the estimated flight path.

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