Advance Copy

TITLE 14 - AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

CHAPTER I - FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

[Regulatory Docket No. 960; Amendment 24-4 7]

PART 24 - MECHANIC AND REPAIRMAN CERTIFICATES

Time Limit for Completion of Mechanic Examinations

The Federal Aviation Agency published as a notice of proposed rule making (26 F.R. 10571) and circulated as Civil Air Regulations Draft Release No. 61-24 dated November 1, 1961, a proposal to amend Part 24 of the Civil Air Regulations to require an applicant for a mechanic certificate and rating to complete successfully all parts of the prescribed written, oral, and practical examinations within a period of 24 consecutive calendar months before he could obtain the certificate and rating.

As stated in Draft Release 61-24, the current provisions of Part 24 do not provide a specific period of time in which an applicant for a mechanic certificate and rating must complete successfully all parts of the prescribed examinations. In this respect, the Agency, in considering and justifying the proposed amendments, took into account the many occasions where applicants have taken a portion of the prescribed examinations, then either delayed completing the remaining parts for several years or, on many occasions, never completed the remaining parts.

Accordingly, to assure that the knowledge and skill of an applicant is current, § 24.18 is amended to require that all parts of the prescribed examinations must be completed successfully by the applicant within a period of 24 consecutive calendar months before he can obtain a mechanic certificate and rating, or an additional rating. Moreover, provision is

made to credit an applicant with any part of the prescribed examinations passed by him before the effective date of this amendment. That credit will be good for 24 consecutive calendar months after the effective date of this amendment.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented. The majority of comments received in response to Draft Release 61-24 concurred in the adoption of the rule as it was proposed. However, in response to certain comments received, the proposed amendment has been revised to make it clear that the amendment applies to both an applicant for a mechanic certificate and rating, and to the holder of a mechanic certificate who applies for an additional rating. There were several comments which expressed the view that the 24-month period was too long and suggested a shorter period such as 12 months. On the other hand, a few comments suggested that the time limit was too short and, further, that some provision should be made to recognize those instances where an applicant would be unable to complete all parts of the prescribed mechanic examinations because of illness or military service.

The Agency has carefully evaluated all of the comments received, and believes that the time limit of 24 months to be the most reasonable period of time within which an applicant should be able to complete successfully all parts of the prescribed examinations. In addition, the 24-month period parallels the current provisions of Part 24 with respect to recent experience requirements which must be met by a certificated

mechanic before he may exercise the privileges of his certificate. Furthermore, any increase in the proposed time limitation would be inconsistent with the Agency's stated objective of imposing a time limitation to require that the knowledge and skill of an applicant is current at the time he obtains a mechanic certificate and appropriate rating.

In consideration of the foregoing, Part 24 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 24, as amended) is hereby amended as follows, effective May 29, 1962 :

1. By amending § 24.1 by adding in proper alphabetical order a new definition to read as follows:

24.1 Definitions. * * *

Calendar month. Calendar month means that period of time extending from the first day of any month delineated by the calendar through the last day thereof.

NOTE: For example, a period of 24 consecutive calendar months beginning in July would end on July 31 two years later.

2. By amending § 24.18 to read as follows:

24.18 Examinations.

(a) Examinations are conducted by an authorized representative of the Administrator at such times and places as the Administrator may designate.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, no applicant may obtain a mechanic certificate and rating, or an additional rating, unless all prescribed examinations have been completed successfully within a period of 24 consecutive calendar months.

(c) An applicant who, prior to May 29, 1962 , has completed successfully any part of the prescribed examinations for a mechanic certificate and rating, or for an additional rating, may receive credit for such part for 24 consecutive calendar months after that date. (Sections 313(a), 601, 602; 72 Stat. 752, 775, 776; 49 U.S.C. 1354, 1421, 1422)

Administrator

Issued in Washington, D. C., on APR 20 1962