Civil Aeronautics Manual 25

Parachute Rigger Certificates

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

August 1959

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

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NOTE

This manual contains Civil Air Regulations Part 25 dated April 15, 1958, and the editorial changes by Special Regulation SR–430 effective December 31, 1958.

As amendments and other pertinent materials pertaining to Part 25 are issued, they will be included in this manual.

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Parachute Rigger Certificates

Applicability and Definitions

25.0 *Applicability of this part.* This part establishes the certification and the general operating rules for the packing, repair, and alteration of parachutes.

25.1 *Definitions.* As used in this part terms are defined as follows:

Alteration. Alteration means any change in the design of a parachute.

Authorized representative of the Administrator. An authorized representative of the Administrator is any employee of the Federal Aviation Agency or any private person, authorized by the Administrator to perform any of the duties imposed upon him by the provisions of this part.

Certificated parachute rigger. A certificated parachute rigger is an individual holding a parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings issued by the Administrator.

Maintenance. Maintenance means the upkeep and preservation of parachutes, including the component parts thereof.

Major repair. A major repair is a repair which might have an effect on the structural, functional, or handling characteristics of a parachute.

Manufacturer. A manufacturer is any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, or joint stock association, including any trustee, assignee, or other similar representative thereof, which

(a) Holds a type or production certificate for a parachute, or

(b) Manufactures an approved parachute.

Minor repair. A minor repair is a repair other than a major repair.

Parachute. A parachute is a contrivance, including its component parts, designed to retard the descent of a falling body or object through the air.

Repair. Repair means the restoration of a parachute to a condition for safe use after damage or deterioration.

To pack. To pack means to arrange properly a parachute in its container for use.

Certification Rules

25.5 *Application for certificate.* An application for a parachute rigger certificate and ratings shall be made on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Administrator.

25.6 *Issuance.*

(a) A parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall be issued by the Administrator to an applicant who meets the requirements of this part.

(b) Pending a review of an application for a certificate and supplementary documents and the issuance of a certificate by the Administrator, an authorized representative of the Administrator may, subject to such conditions and limitations as the Administrator may prescribe, issue a temporary parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings to an applicant who meets the requirements of this part.

25.7 *Duration.*

(a) A parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings issued to a United States citizen shall remain in effect until surrendered, suspended, revoked, or otherwise terminated by order of the Board. After revocation, and upon request after suspension, the certificate shall be returned to the Administrator.

(b) A parachute rigger certificate issued to an applicant other than a United States citizen shall remain in effect for a period no longer than 12 months after the date of issuance, but it may be reissued without further demonstration of technical competence.

(c) A temporary parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall remain

in effect for no longer than 3 months after the date of issuance.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny or defeat the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts, the Administrator, or the Board to impose any authorized sanction, including revocation of the certificate, for a violation of the Act or the Civil Air Regulations occurring during the effective period of the certificate.

25.9 *Display.* A parachute rigger shall, upon request, present his airman certificate for examination by any authorized representative of the Civil Aeronautics Board or Administrator or by any State or local law enforcement officer.

25.10 *Change of address.* Within 30 days after any change in the permanent mailing address of a certificated parachute rigger, he shall notify the Administrator in writing of his new address. The notice shall be mailed to the Federal Aviation Agency, attention, Aircraft and Airmen Records Branch, Washington 25, D.C.

General Certificate Requirements

25.21 *Citizenship.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate may be a citizen of any country or a person without nationality.

25.22 *Age.* 18 years is the minimum age for the issuance of a parachute rigger certificate.

25.23 *Education.* An applicant shall be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language: *Provided,* That a citizen of Puerto Rico, or an applicant who is employed by an air carrier outside the United States, need not be able to read, write, speak, or understand the English language except that a certificate issued to such an applicant shall be valid only in Puerto Rico, or only while employed by an air carrier outside the United States, as the case may be.

25.24 *Examinations and tests.* Examinations and tests shall be conducted by an authorized representative of the Administrator at such times and places as the Administrator may designate. The passing grade for all oral and written examinations shall be at least 70 percent. The practical examination shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the authorized representative of the Administrator.

25.25 *Reexamination after failure.* An applicant who has failed any prescribed written or practical examination or test may not apply for reexamination within a 30-day period unless he presents a statement signed by a certificated master parachute rigger, or an individual in charge of a military parachute department that he has received an additional 5 hours of instruction in the subject or subjects failed and is considered competent to pass the examination or test.

25.26 *Type ratings.* The following type ratings shall be issued:

(a) Seat,
(b) Back,
(c) Chest, and
(d) Special purpose.

25.27 *Rating competence.* An applicant for a type rating shall have packed at least 20 parachutes of the type for which the rating is sought in accordance with the manufacturer's packing instructions and under the supervision of a certificated master parachute rigger holding a rating for such type or an individual holding an appropriate military rating, and shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator competence in the packing, maintenance, repair, and inspection of such type.

25.28 *Substantiation of experience.* An applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the Administrator to substantiate the experience qualifications for the parachute rigger certificate or rating applied for.

Qualifications for a Parachute Rigger Certificate

25.40 *General.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate shall meet the following experience, knowledge, and skill requirements.

25.41 *Experience.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate with appropriate ratings shall have packed satisfactorily at least 20 parachutes of each type for which a rating is sought, in accordance with the

manufacturer's packing instructions, and under the supervision of a certificated master parachute rigger holding a rating for such type or an individual holding an appropriate military rating.

25.42 *Knowledge.* An applicant for a parachute rigger certificate shall satisfactorily accomplish an oral, written, and practical examination on the construction, packing, maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of, the manufacturer's instructions with respect to, at least one type of parachute in common civilian use, and the provisions of this part.

25.43 *Skill.* An applicant shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he has the ability to pack, maintain, inspect, and repair at least one type of parachute in common civilian use.

25.44 *Military competence.* The Administrator may issue a parachute rigger certificate and appropriate ratings to an applicant who satisfactorily accomplishes a written examination on the provisions of this part and presents reliable documentary evidence showing:

(a) That he is a member of the regular or reserve armed forces of the United States; or that he is a civilian employee of the regular armed forces of the United States; or that he is a United States citizen and is either a member or civilian employee of the regular armed forces of a foreign government; or that he has been honorably discharged or released from such status within 12 months preceding the date of application; and

(b) That he is serving, or has, within 12 months preceding the date of application, served in such organization or organizations as a parachute rigger; and

(c) That he meets the experience requirements of this part for the issuance of an appropriate parachute rigger certificate.

25.45 *Privileges.* A certificated parachute rigger may maintain, pack, inspect, and perform minor repairs on any type of parachute for which he is rated.

Qualifications for a Master Parachute Rigger Certificate

25.60 *General.* An applicant for a master parachute rigger certificate shall meet the following experience, knowledge, and skill requirements.

25.61 *Experience.* An applicant for a master parachute rigger certificate shall:

(a) Have had at least 5 years of experience as a parachute rigger; and

(b) Have packed satisfactorily not less than 100 parachutes of each of 2 types in common civilian use.

25.62 *Knowledge.* An applicant shall satisfactorily accomplish an oral and practical test covering the construction, inspection, packing, maintenance, repair, and use of, and the manufacturer's instructions with respect to, at least 2 different types of parachutes in common civilian use.

25.63 *Skill.* An applicant shall demonstrate to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he has the ability to pack, maintain, inspect, and repair at least 2 types of parachutes in common civilian use and has the ability to supervise others in the accomplishment of such operations.

25.64 *Privileges.* A certificated master parachute rigger may:

(a) Maintain, pack, inspect, repair, and alter any type of parachute for which he holds a rating; and

(b) Instruct other individuals in the proper methods and procedures of constructing, packing, maintaining, and using the types of parachutes for which he holds ratings.

Operating Rules

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25.80 *General.* No individual shall pack, repair, maintain, alter, or inspect a parachute for use in connection with any civil aircraft used in air commerce without an appropriate certificate and rating issued in accordance with the provisions of this part, except as provided in sections 25.81 through 25.85: *Provided,* That a certificated parachute rigger need not hold a rating for the parachute nor

comply with the provisions of sections 25.81 through 25.85 if the parachute is to be used exclusively by him for exhibition jumps or testing.

25.81 *Facilities and equipment.* A certificated parachute rigger shall have available the following minimum facilities and equipment:

(a) A smooth-top table measuring at least 3 feet by 10 feet;

(b) A compartment where parachutes may be suspended vertically for drying and airing;

(c) Sufficient packing tools and other equipment to pack, maintain, and repair the type of parachute being serviced; and

(d) Adequate housing facilities for the proper performance of the duties of a parachute rigger and for the protection of tools and equipment.

25.82 *Performance standards.* No certificated parachute rigger shall:

(a) Pack or perform any maintenance, repair, or alteration on any type of parachute unless rated for such type;

(b) Pack any parachute which is not in a safe condition for emergency use;

(c) Pack any parachute unless such parachute has been thoroughly dried and aired;

(d) Pack any parachute in a manner not specified in the manufacturer's instructions; or

(e) Make any alteration not specifically authorized by the manufacturer or the Administrator, or in any way deviate from the procedures approved by the manufacturer or Administrator for the maintenance, repair, alteration, packing, or inspection of parachutes.

25.83 *Seal.* Each certificated parachute rigger shall have a seal bearing an individual identifying mark assigned by the Administrator and a seal press available for use. When packing or repacking any parachute, the certificated parachute rigger shall seal each pack with his individual seal in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations for the particular type of parachute.

25.84 *Required records.*

(a) *Operation record.* Each certificated parachute rigger shall keep a bound record of all packing, inspection, maintenance, repair, and alteration operations performed or supervised by him on parachutes other than those in military service. This record shall contain the type and make of parachute, its serial number, the name and address of its owner, the kind and extent of the operation performed, the date and place where performed, and the results of any drop test made. Where major repairs and alterations are performed, each certificated parachute rigger shall execute such major repair and alteration forms as may be prescribed by the Administrator and shall deliver copies of such forms to the owner of the parachute and to the Administrator. These records shall be retained for at least 2 years after the date of the last entry therein.

(b) *Parachute packing record.* Each certificated parachute rigger packing a parachute other than that used in military service shall enter on the parachute packing record attached to the parachute the date and place of such packing or repacking and a notation of any defects found upon inspection. The rigger shall sign such record and enter thereon the number of his parachute rigger certificate.

25.85 *Recent experience requirements.* No certificated parachute rigger shall exercise the privileges of his parachute rigger certificate unless he is familiar with the current manufacturers' instructions pertinent to the particular operation, and

(a) Has performed the duties of a parachute rigger under the terms of his certificate and ratings for at least 90 days within the preceding 12-month period, or

(b) Has demonstrated to an authorized representative of the Administrator that he is competent to perform the duties of a parachute rigger under the terms of his certificate and ratings.

NOTE: The reporting and record-keeping requirements of this part have been approved by the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with the Federal Reports Act of 1942.

Appendix

SPECIAL CIVIL AIR REGULATION NO. SR–397

Effective: June 30, 1953
Adopted: June 30, 1953

Authorization for the United States Forest Service to Deviate from the Civil Air Regulations

The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture uses both public and civil aircraft to carry personnel and equipment to fire areas. The aircraft and pilots are certificated and, where possible, Forest Service operations are conducted in accordance with the Civil Air Regulations. In order to deal effectively with fire control and other Forest Service specialized activities, however, it is often necessary to use uncertificated personnel as parachute riggers during peakload periods, to remove seats and safety belts from aircraft in which firefighters are carried, to drop equipment and supplies from aircraft, and to deviate from other provisions of the Civil Air Regulations such as minimum altitudes and visibility conditions. Due to the exigencies of the particular situation, it is usually impracticable for the Forest Service to seek authority in each particular instance to deviate from the provisions of the Civil Air Regulations. In view of the public service rendered by this organization and the well-organized supervisory control which the Forest Service exercises over its operations, it is considered desirable that the Board authorize the Forest Service to deviate from the Civil Air Regulations and normal practices thereunder when necessary for their operations.

This regulation authorizes the Chief of the Forest Service to permit aircraft and airmen, while engaged in Forest Service operations, to deviate from the Civil Air Regulations to the extent that he finds necessary for the expeditious conduct of such operations. The regulation also provides that the Administrator shall establish a procedure for notification by the Chief of the Forest Service of those deviations which he has authorized.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this regulation, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented. Since this regulation imposes no additional burden on any person, it may be made effective without prior notice.

In consideration of the foregoing the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby makes and promulgates the following Special Civil Air Regulation, effective immediately:

Contrary provisions of the Civil Air Regulations notwithstanding, the Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is authorized to permit aircraft and airmen, while engaged in operations conducted for the United States Forest Service, to deviate from the provisions of the Civil Air Regulations to the extent that he finds necessary for the expeditious conduct of such operations. The Chief, Forest Service, shall notify the Administrator of any deviation which he has authorized and the reasons therefor in accordance with a procedure established by the Administrator.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1959 O - 516723