

Special Flight Permits

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be done.

Note 4: The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale de L'Aviation Civile airworthiness directive 1990-064(A), Revision 1, dated March 21, 2000.

Effective Date

(f) This amendment becomes effective on July 25, 2003.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on June 13, 2003.

Peter A. White,

Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Parts 61, 63, and 65**

[Docket No. FAA-2003-15431; Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 100]

RIN 2120-AH98

Relief for U.S. Military and Civilian Personnel Who Are Assigned Outside the United States in Support of U.S. Armed Forces Operations

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is replacing an existing Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) with a new SFAR that allows Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) to accept expired flight instructor certificates and inspection authorizations for renewals from U.S. military and civilian personnel who are assigned outside the United States in support of U.S. Armed Forces operations. This SFAR also allows FSDOs to accept expired airman written test reports for certain practical tests from U.S. military and civilian personnel who are assigned outside the United States in support of U.S. Armed Forces operations. This action is necessary to avoid penalizing U.S. military and civilian personnel who are unable to meet the regulatory time limits of their flight instructor certificate, inspection authorization, or airman written test report because they are serving outside the United States in support of U.S. Armed Forces operations. The effect of this action is to

give U.S. military and civilian personnel who are assigned outside the United States in support of U.S. Armed Forces operations extra time to meet the certain eligibility requirements under the current rules.

DATES: This SFAR is effective June 20, 2003. We must receive comments on or before July 21, 2003. This SFAR expires June 20, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Mail your comments to the Public Docket Office, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Or, send your comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lynch, Certification Branch, AFS-840, General Aviation and Commercial Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3844.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Comments Are Welcome**

Under 14 CFR part 11, the FAA may issue a final rule with request for comments, which is a rule issued in final (with an effective date) that invites public comment on the rule. Although this action is a final rule and was not preceded by a notice of proposed rulemaking, we invite your comments on this SFAR. The most useful comments are those that are specific and related to issues raised by the SFAR, and that explain the reason for any recommended change. We specifically invite comments on the economic, environmental, energy, federalism, international trade, energy, and overall regulatory aspects of the SFAR that might suggest a need to modify it. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this action and determining whether additional rulemaking action is needed.

To ensure consideration, you must identify the Rules Docket number in your comments, and you must send comments to one of the addresses specified under the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble. We will consider all communications received on or before the closing date for comments, and we may amend or withdraw this SFAR in light of the comments received. All comments received will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. We will file in the Rules Docket a report that summarizes each public contact related to the substance of this rule.

You may review the public docket containing comments on this SFAR in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the Nassif Building at the Department of Transportation at the address specified in the **ADDRESSES** section. Also, you may review the public docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

If you want us to acknowledge receipt of your comments on this SFAR, you must include with your comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which you identify the Rules Docket number of this rulemaking. We will date-stamp the postcard and return it to you.

Availability of Rulemaking Documents

You can get an electronic copy of this SFAR using the Internet through FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm/nprm.htm> or through the Government Printing Office's Web page at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

You can get a paper copy by sending a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-1, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-9680. Make sure to identify the docket number of this rulemaking.

Small Entity Inquiries

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA) requires the FAA to report inquiries from small entities concerning information on, and advice about, compliance with statutes and regulations within the FAA's jurisdiction, including interpretation and application of the law to specific sets of facts supplied by a small entity. If your organization is a small entity and you have a question, contact your local FAA official. If you do not know how to contact your local FAA official, you may contact the FAA Office of Rulemaking, ARM-27, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone (888) 551-1594. Internet users can find additional information on SBREFA in the FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/sbrefa.html>. You may send inquiries to the following Internet address: 9-AWA-SBREFA@faa.gov.

Background

As a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many U.S. military and civilian personnel were assigned outside the United States in support of