

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Parts 13, 47, 61, 91 and 183****[Docket No. 26148, Notice No. 90-9A]****RIN 2120-AD16****Drug Enforcement Assistance****AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration [FAA], DOT.**ACTION:** Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an extension of the comment period from May 11, 1990, until July 11, 1990, on the FAA's Drug Enforcement Assistance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) (55 FR 9270, March 12, 1990). In the NPRM, the FAA: (1) Is proposing to revise certain requirements concerning registration of aircraft, certification of pilots, and penalties associated with registration and certification violations; and (2) announces new procedures for processing major repair and alteration forms that pertain to fuel system modifications. The proposals respond to the FAA Drug Enforcement Assistance Act of 1988 and would assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to stop drug trafficking in general aviation aircraft.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 11, 1990.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be sent or delivered in duplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Rules Docket, AGC-10, room 915G, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591. Comments must be marked Docket No. 26148. Comments may be examined in the Rules Docket between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, except Federal holidays. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Earl F. Mahoney, Registry Modernization Program Staff (AVN-7), Federal Aviation Administration, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, P.O. Box 25082, 6500 S. MacArthur Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73125, telephone (405) 680-7357.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Comments Invited**

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications

should identify the regulatory docket or notice number and be submitted in duplicate to the address listed above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) before taking action on the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for the comment period, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Commenters who desire that the FAA acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to docket number 26148." The postcard will be dated, time-stamped, and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRM

Any person may obtain a copy of the NPRM by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs, Attn: Public Information Center, APA-230, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-3484. Requests must identify the notice number of the NPRM (90-9). Persons interested in being placed on the mailing list for future NPRM's should also request a copy of Advisory Circular 11-2, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedures.

Extension of Comment Period

On April 6, 1990, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) requested a 60-day extension of the comment period. AOPA states that it promptly reviewed the NPRM and prepared an analysis for its members which will appear in the May issue of the *AOPA Pilot* magazine to be distributed in early May. AOPA states that the May 11, 1990 closing date would not allow enough time for AOPA members to review the analysis and provide meaningful information on which AOPA could formulate its comments. Another commenter, Mr. Jack W. Tunstall, states, consistent with the AOPA request, that general aviation pilots and owners generally do not get their information directly from the *Federal Register*, but rather rely on national publications with printing

schedules that are not compatible with the 60-day comment period. Several other commenters state their belief that the 60-day comment period is inadequate due to the length, complexity, and significance of the proposals in the NPRM. Finally, Cessna Finance Corporation states that the proposals in the NPRM, if adopted, would have a tremendous impact on the way the finance industry completes loans on airplanes and that the announced 60-day comment period is not adequate for it to evaluate the proposed changes and formulate a proper comment.

In spite of the fact that some members of the general public may rely on sources other than the *Federal Register* for information concerning agency activities, the *Federal Register* constitutes legal notice to the general public of the agency's proposed rulemaking actions. It is the FAA's goal to permit all interested persons an opportunity to participate in FAA rulemaking to the extent practicable. To that end the FAA usually provides fairly lengthy comment periods so that persons who obtain information from secondary sources can participate. In addition, the FAA maintains a mailing list of persons interested in receiving future NPRM's. (See section entitled "Availability of NPRM" above.) The FAA will continue to make every reasonable effort to provide the public the opportunity to participate.

The FAA believes that extending the comment period for 60 days is warranted for the reasons expressed by some of the commenters, in light of the fact that there is no compelling, countervailing interest to the contrary. The extension will provide adequate time for readers to obtain a copy of the complete NPRM, if desired, from the FAA, and to do research and prepare comments. The FAA believes it will receive comments from a larger number of persons than would be submitted within the initial 60-day period and therefore will promote better decisionmaking.

Therefore, the FAA provides an additional 60 days for persons to comment. Comments are now due on July 11, 1990.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 10, 1990.
Darlene M. Freeman,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards.

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