

IA Renewal Information & Questions and Answers

Holders of an FAA Inspection Authorization will not be required to renew their certificate until March of 2011. However, each IA holder must maintain eligibility to hold the certificate throughout the two year renewal cycle. Written documentation to support continued eligibility through March of 2010 is required to be included with the renewal application package in March of 2011.

For the purposes of IA activity, the year begins on April 1st and extends through March 31st. During this 12 month period, holders of an FAA Inspection Authorization must meet one of the renewal requirements set forth in 14 CFR §65.93(a).

Those requirements are:

14 CFR §65.93(a)(1): Has performed at least one annual inspection for each 90 days that the applicant held the current authority. These four annual inspections could be performed at any time during the year. Some individuals incorrectly assume that at least one annual inspection must be completed during each 90 day period.

OR

14 CFR §65.93(a)(2): Has performed inspections of at least two major repairs or major alterations for each 90 days that the applicant has held the current authority. Likewise, the completion of these activities need not occur during each 90 day period. You may renew on either annual inspections OR major repairs/alterations – not a combination of both.

OR

14 CFR §65.93(a)(3): Has performed or supervised and approved at least one progressive inspection in accordance with the standards prescribed by the Administrator.

OR

14 CFR §65.93(a)(4): Has attended and successfully completed a refresher course acceptable to the Administrator, of not less than 8 hours of instruction during the 12 month period preceding the application for renewal. Many renew an IA through attending the classes provided at an annual approved IA symposium. Many of the manufacturer's training courses have also been approved as a basis for IA renewal. Generally these courses will display an FAA approved course number on the certificate

of completion. There are also a number of approved computer based instruction courses available on the internet.

OR

14 CFR §65.93(a)(5): Has passed an oral test by an FAA inspector to determine the applicant's knowledge of the applicable regulations and standards are current. This method of renewal may not be your first choice, but it is a viable option which allows positive interaction with FAA personnel during the renewal process.

Oral test will be based on the current revision of the FAA Inspection Authorization Knowledge Test Guide FAA-G-8082-11B and IA privileges and limitations per Title 14 Part 65.

NOTE: 14 CFR §65.93(b): The holder of an inspection authorization that has been in effect for less than 90 days before the expiration date need not comply with paragraphs (a)(1) through (5) of this section.

In March 2011, IA Certificate holders will be required to submit a Mechanic's Application for Inspection Authorization, FAA Form 8610-1, in duplicate, with the documentation establishing your compliance with 14 CFR 65.93(a) during the previous two year period. An IA who does not meet one of 14 CFR §65.93(1) to (5) during the first year may not exercise IA privileges after March 31 of the first year. (14 CFR §65.93(c)) An IA may resume privileges after passing an oral test per 14 CFR §65.93(c). The IA's activity must show during the odd year (month of March), that they meet the 2 year renewal requirements as the statement indicates.

NOTE: The mixing of annual inspections, major repairs, and major alterations is not permitted. You may renew your IA certificate based on the completion of four annual inspections OR eight major repairs/alterations – not a combination of both activities. Since we are on the subject of annual inspections, be advised that the inspection programs for large airplanes, turbine powered multi-engine airplanes, turbopropeller powered multi-engine airplanes and rotorcraft defined under 14 CFR 91.409(e) are NOT an acceptable substitution for annual inspections. Examples include: Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Programs (CAMP), Approved Aircraft Inspection Programs (AAIP), manufacturer's recommended programs, and owner/operator developed inspection programs.

What if I am no longer actively engaged in the maintenance or repair of aircraft but I attend an FAA approved refresher course?

14 CFR 65.93(a) requires that an applicant for renewal must continue to meet the requirements of 65.91(c)(1) through (c)(4). This means that an applicant must remain

active in maintaining aircraft and have the equipment, facility, and inspection data available to properly inspect airframes, powerplants, propellers, or any related part or appliance.

What if I failed to meet the renewal requirements by March 31st of the first year of the two-year renewal cycle?

If you failed to maintain eligibility for renewal in March of the first year, you may not exercise the privileges of the Inspection Authorization beyond March 31st of the first year.

We hope this explanation proves beneficial. Should any questions arise, feel free to contact the Richmond Flight Standards District Office (804) 222-7494 for further guidance.