

It's on the Street

New Rule in Effect

HELLO, EVERYONE! A final rule entitled, "Modification of Certain Medical Standards and Procedures and Duration of Certain Medical Certificates," became effective on July 24, 2008. You'll need to know what the changes were and how they affect medical certification.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- **Certificate wording.** We modified the wording on the certificate back to make it consistent with the new rule.
- **Duration periods of first- and third-class certificates for airmen who were under age 40 at the date of their examinations.**
 - ▶ **First class.** First-class medical certificates are now valid for one



year. For example, if an individual's date of birth was August 10, 1968, and the date of his first-class examination is August 9, 2008 (obviously one day shy of age 40), his certificate will be valid for one year.

▶ **Third class.** Third-class medical certificates are now valid for five years.

- **Previously issued certificates.** The new rule also affects previously issued certificates. A first-class certificate issued seven months before the effective date of the rule will be valid for an additional five months; and a third-class certificate issued three years before the effective date of the rule will be valid for an additional two years.

WHAT REMAINS THE SAME?

- **Duration period for second-class certificates:** one year, regardless of age
- **Duration periods for first and third classes after age 40:** First class, six months; and third class, two years.
- **Lapsing:** Certificates will continue to lapse to lower classes as they have in the past.
- **Expiration at the end of the month:** Duration periods will continue to end on the last day of the month. For example, a second-class examination performed on June 1,

2009, will be valid for second-class operations until June 30, 2010, and it will then lapse to a third-class certificate.

NEW MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

We had hoped to have new forms available when the rule became effective, but we encountered some administrative delays. We elected to publish the rule without having the new forms on hand. We knew that this decision might cause some confusion, but we reasoned that the benefits the public gained by changing the duration periods as soon as possible outweighed any inconveniences that might be caused by issuing forms with the outdated wording.

The new forms will be available in about a month, but in the meantime, it will be necessary for you to use the outdated certificates. Once the new forms are available, we will distribute them to you. However, we do not intend to replace certificates that have already been issued because we do not have the resources to do so.

We are doing our very best to disseminate this information to the public, but you may get questions from airmen regarding the new rule or requests to do physicals from airmen who do not require them under the new standards. If you get such questions or requests, I hope you will discuss the new rule with your airmen, explain the new duration periods to them, and tell them that their certificates are valid for the new duration periods, regardless of what it says on the back of the form.

I NEED YOUR HELP!

I have said many times that we cannot do it without you, and once again, I am asking you to help us as we implement this new rule. Thanks, in advance, for your assistance on the implementation of the new rule, and thanks again for all you do for us.

—Fred

Federal Air Surgeon's Medical Bulletin

Library of Congress ISSN 1545-1518

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The Federal Air Surgeon's Medical Bulletin is published quarterly for aviation medical examiners and others interested in aviation safety and aviation medicine. The Bulletin is prepared by the FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute, with policy guidance and support from the Office of Aerospace Medicine.

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