

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Aircraft Registration Branch

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INFORMATION TO AID IN THE REGISTRATION OF U.S. CIVIL AIRCRAFT

ELIGIBILITY

1. An aircraft may be registered only when the aircraft is not registered under the laws of a foreign country and is owned by (a) a citizen of the United States, (b) an individual citizen of a foreign country lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, (c) a corporation not a citizen of the United States when the corporation is organized and doing business under the laws of the United States or a State within the United States, and the aircraft is based and primarily used in the United States, or (d) an aircraft of the United States Government. **Operation of an unregistered aircraft may subject the operator to civil penalty.**

2. DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN

- a. An individual who is a citizen of the United States or one of its possessions.
- b. A partnership each of whose partners is an individual who is a citizen of the United States.
- c. A corporation or association organized under the laws of the United States or a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States, of which the president and at least two-thirds of the board of directors and other managing officers are citizens of the United States, which is under the actual control of citizens of the United States, and in which at least 75 percent of the voting interest is owned or controlled by persons that are citizens of the United States.

HOW TO REGISTER

3. **SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (sUA).** sUA weighing between .55 and 55 lbs., including everything on-board at take-off, must register pursuant to 14 C.F.R. Part 48 - Registration and Marking Requirements for Small Unmanned Aircraft. Use the on-line system at <https://faadronezone-access.faa.gov/#/>. sUA intended to be operated outside the territorial United States or registered through a trust or voting trust, must be registered under 14 C.F.R. Part 47.

REGISTRATION OF MANNED & UNMANNED AIRCRAFT PURSUANT TO 14 CFR PART 47. The owners of manned aircraft, unmanned aircraft weighing 55 lbs. or more including everything on-board at take-off, sUA owned by a trustee or a company using a voting trust to meet U.S. citizenship requirements, and sUA that need an N-number to operate in other countries must apply to the Aircraft Registration Branch for a Certificate of Aircraft Registration. This requires an Aircraft Registration Application, AC Form 8050-1, evidence of ownership and the \$5 registration fee. Forms and additional information are available on our website.

NAME REQUIREMENTS

4. An aircraft may be registered only by and in the legal name of its owner. It is important that a name be the same on all conveyances submitted. A corporation has only one name which is approved in its charter or certificate of incorporation. Do not use abbreviated or shortened names. An individual should avoid using nicknames and should show "Jr." or "Sr." if applicable. A woman's full given name should be used (Jane Doe) rather than her married name (Mrs. John Doe).

5. **TRADE NAME.** When a trade name is used by an individual, by co-owners, or by a corporation, the trade name alone is not sufficient since it is not the legal entity owning the aircraft. The trade name may appear on conveyances in addition to the legal name of the owner Example: John Doe dba Doe Air.

AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION APPLICATION

6. The aircraft registration application must be signed by the owner /applicant. The owner's name on the application must be identical to the name as shown on the evidence of ownership. The type of registration block marked, and the title of the signer must agree. (See requirements for Types of Registration, Items 27 through 31.) The application must also meet the following requirements:
 - a. The typed or printed name of the signer(s) must be included below the signature.
 - b. If a post office or mail drop address is used for mailing purposes, a physical location or physical address must also be shown.
 - c. The application must be completed and essentially "perfect" in original appearance. There can be no white out, strike throughs, or other alterations that obscure the content of the original text or the information provided by the applicant.

EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP

7. The applicant for registration of an aircraft last registered in the United States must submit conveyances completing the chain of ownership from the last registered owner, through any intervening owners, to the applicant.
8. **A BILL OF SALE.** AC Form 8050-2, or its equivalent, which transfers all right, title, and interest in an aircraft, is considered evidence of ownership.
9. **A CONTRACT OF CONDITIONAL SALE** may be recorded as evidence of ownership and the certificate of registration issued to the buyer.
10. **TRANSFER OF EQUITABLE INTEREST.** A transfer of equitable interest under a contract of conditional sale or lease with a purchase option, previously recorded with the Aircraft Registration Branch, shall be executed by the original conditional buyer (or their assignee) and by the seller under the contract of conditional sale (or their assignee) to show consent to the transfer. It shall describe the original contract, including the date, name of parties, FAA recording number and date, and the aircraft by make, model, serial number, and registration number. A recording fee, in addition to the registration fee, is required.
11. **TRANSFER OF INTEREST.** A transfer of interest (by an instrument other than a bill of sale) in an aircraft subject to the security conveyance or chattel mortgage where the seller conveys all right, title and interest in an aircraft to a purchaser is eligible for recording as evidence of ownership. The instrument may contain an assumption clause pertaining to the recorded security conveyance. The transfer agreement should be signed by the seller, the purchaser (if the purchaser assumes the debt), and by the security holder to denote assent to the transfer. It shall describe the original agreement by its date, parties, FAA recording number and date, and the aircraft by make, model, serial number, and registration number. A recording fee, in addition to the registration fee, is required.

12. **REPOSSESSION.** The entity repossessing an aircraft must submit a Certificate of Repossession, AC Form 8050-4, or its equivalent, accompanied by the original or a certified true copy of the security conveyance upon which repossession is based, unless the conveyance is already recorded with the Aircraft Registration Branch (See Certified True Copy, Item 42).
13. **FORECLOSURE.** When repossession is through foreclosure proceedings resulting in a sale, a bill of sale is required in addition to a certified true copy of the court order of foreclosure. The bill of sale must be signed by the sheriff or other authorized person who conducted the sale and must include a statement that the sale was made under applicable local law.
14. **JUDICIAL SALE.** The buyer of an aircraft at a judicial sale, or at a sale to satisfy a lien or charge, must submit a bill of sale signed by the sheriff, auctioneer, or other authorized person who conducted the sale, stating that the sale was made under applicable local law.
15. **FORECLOSURE OF MECHANIC'S LIEN.** If the lienholder conducts the sale, the lienholder must provide the citation of the law under which the sale was conducted, a statement that it was conducted in accordance with the law, and documentary evidence of compliance.
16. **COURT ORDER.** If title to an aircraft has been in controversy and ownership has been determined by a court of law, a certified copy of the court order may be submitted as evidence of ownership. The aircraft must be specifically described in the order and the owner of record must be a party to the action.
17. **AFFIDAVIT.** If, for good reason, the applicant cannot produce the required evidence of ownership, they may submit for consideration an affidavit stating why they cannot produce the required evidence, accompanied by whatever further evidence is available to prove the transaction. The further evidence may be receipts, statements of witnesses, copies of canceled checks, or returned certified mail documenting attempts to contact the former owner(s).
18. **NEW HOME-BUILT & LIGHT SPORT AIRCRAFT:**
 - a. **Aircraft built from a Kit.** The applicant for registration of an aircraft built from a kit that has not been registered anywhere must submit an Aircraft Registration Application, AC Form 8050-1, a Bill of Sale, AC Form 8050-2 or equivalent, for the kit from the kit manufacturer, an Affidavit of Ownership, AC Form 8050-88, and the \$5 registration fee.
 - b. **Aircraft built from plans or miscellaneous parts.** The applicant for registration of an aircraft built from a set of plans or miscellaneous parts that has not been registered anywhere, must submit an Aircraft Registration Application, AC Form 8050-1, an Affidavit of Ownership, AC Form 8050-88, and the \$5 registration fee.
 - c. **Special or Experimental Light Sport Aircraft.** The applicant for registration of an aircraft built in accordance with U.S. Light Sport Consensus Standards that has not been registered anywhere must submit a Light Sport Aircraft Manufacturer's Affidavit, AC Form 8050-88A, completed by the manufacturer, an Aircraft Bill of Sale, AC Form 8050-2 or equivalent, from the manufacturer, an Aircraft Registration Application, AC Form 8050-1, and the \$5 registration fee.

CONVEYANCES SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

19. **AMENDMENT.** An amendment (such as to the date, the description of the collateral, the title of the signer, names of the parties, etc.) may be submitted to amend, correct, or clarify any conveyance which is on file with the Aircraft Registration Branch. The amendment should state its purpose and describe the original conveyance by date, name of parties, collateral, and, if recorded, the FAA recording number and date. The amendment must be signed by the parties to the original conveyance. There is a \$5 recording fee for each item of collateral affected.

20. **INCOMPLETED SALE.** When a transaction is not completed, but a conveyance has already been submitted, FAA records may be amended by the submission of a statement signed by the parties to the conveyance explaining the circumstances. The statement should declare that the sale was not consummated and that the named purchaser has no right, title, or interest in the aircraft. The erroneous conveyance should be described within the statement by its date, name of parties, collateral, and, if recorded, the FAA recording number and date. There is a \$5 recording fee for each item of collateral affected.
21. **DISCLAIMER OF INTEREST.** A statement disclaiming any interest in an aircraft may be recorded upon payment of a \$5 recording fee. Such a statement is appropriate to clear the record when a conveyance on file indicates the possibility of an interest by someone outside the chain of ownership.

GENERAL INFORMATION

22. **CONVEYANCES FILED.** Except as provided in item 23, all conveyances filed for recording, which are subsequently recorded, become a permanent part of the aircraft record, and may not be returned. Copies of any document on file may be obtained upon request and payment of a copy fee for each page furnished in addition to \$2 for the records search.
23. **RETURN OF ORIGINAL.** If a party submitting a conveyance for recording wants the original returned, they must also submit a certified true copy with the original. After recording, the certified copy is kept by the FAA and the original is returned stamped with the date and time of recording. (See Certified True Copy, Item 42.)
24. **AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION RENEWAL.** Aircraft registration certificates expire after seven years. A renewal notice is sent to the registered owner, using the mailing address of record, six months before the expiration date shown on the certificate. The notice provides instructions and an access code for online registration renewal and fee payment by credit card. The Aircraft Registration Renewal Application, AC Form 8050-1B, with the renewal fee may also be submitted by mail. An aircraft is without authority to operate unless a current registration certificate is on-board. To ensure receipt of the new certificate before expiration, it is important for the owner to keep their address of record current and to renew registration early. Renewed certificates expire seven years from the previous expiration date.
25. **REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE.** A request for a replacement Certificate of Aircraft Registration must be sent to the Aircraft Registration Branch. The request must identify the aircraft, state the reason a replacement is needed (lost, damaged, destroyed, etc.) and include the \$2 replacement fee. The owner may request a 30-day registration letter sent by fax or email that enables operation of the aircraft pending receipt of the replacement certificate.
26. **MULTIPLE OWNERS ON CERTIFICATE.** Although all owner's names are recorded in the aircraft file, the space provided on the aircraft registration certificate limits the number of names that may be shown to five. It is important that the mailing address given be that of the first owner listed on the Aircraft Registration Application.

TYPES OF REGISTRATION

27. **INDIVIDUAL.** When an aircraft is owned by one person, they are an individual owner. Their title on any document is "owner." This includes an individual as trustee. The individual owner's name must be shown in addition to a trade name if one is used. Example: John Doe dba Doe Aircraft, signed by John Doe, Owner.
28. **CO-OWNERS.** When an aircraft is owned by two or more parties as co-owners, each party who shares title to the aircraft must sign all documents. The appropriate title would be "co-owner." Each co-owner name must appear in addition to a trade name if one is used. If a corporation is a co-owner, the person signing on behalf of the corporation must also show a corporate or managerial title.

- 29. PARTNERSHIP.** The names of all general partners must be shown with the partnership name in the Aircraft Registration Application name of applicant block. If there is only one general partner, so state. One partner may sign documents for the partnership if the full partnership name is shown and the title "partner" follows their signature. The partnership name is either the name under which the partners do business, or, if none, the names of all general partners. An aircraft owned by a partnership which has a corporation as a member (general or limited) is not eligible for registration. Such a partnership does not come within the definition of a "citizen of the United States." [49 U.S.C. 40102(a)(15)]
- 30. CORPORATION.** The name of the corporation must be shown, and a corporate officer or a person in a managerial position must sign and show their corporate or managerial title.
- 31. GOVERNMENT.** Persons signing conveyances for Government owned aircraft must show their title as evidence of the capacity in which they act.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN FOR ANOTHER

- 32.** To accept signatures not meeting the requirements of Items 27 through 31 above, a certified true copy of the document authorizing the signer to act must be submitted unless such authority is already on file with the Aircraft Registration Branch.
- 33. AGENT.** Submit the original or a certified true copy of the document authorizing the agent to act, i.e., power of attorney, signed by the individual, all co-owners, or a general partner, whichever is applicable. A corporation must submit a copy of the resolution of the board of directors authorizing the agent to act, certified as true by a corporate officer or manager. An authorization is accepted as valid up to an expiration date stated therein or three years from the date it was signed. Example: John Doe by Jane Doe, Power of Attorney. (See Certified True Copy, Item 42)
- 34. GUARDIAN.** The guardian of another person's property which includes an aircraft, must submit a certified true copy of the court order appointing them as guardian. The name of both owner and guardian should appear on all documents where the signature of the guardian on behalf of the owner is required. The certificate of registration is issued to the applicant as guardian. Example: John Doe by Jane Doe, Guardian. (See Certified True Copy, Item 42)
- 35. ESTATE.** A conveyance executed on behalf of the estate of a deceased owner must be signed by the authorized representative of the estate and be accompanied by that representative's authority to sign for the estate unless such authority is already on file with the Aircraft Registration Branch. The name of the estate should be shown, followed by the representative's signature and title. Example: Estate of John Doe by Jane Doe, Administrator. The representative's name must be signed exactly as it appears on the authorization document.
- If registration is desired by the executor, administrator, or heir-at-law, the application for registration and \$5 registration fee for each aircraft should accompany the authorization document. The certificate of registration is issued to the executor or administrator.
- 36. EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR.** A certified true copy of Letters Testamentary or Letters of Administration is required as authority for an executor or administrator to act. (See Certified True Copy, Item 42)
- 37. HEIR-AT-LAW.** If no executor or administrator is appointed, a notarized affidavit from the heir-at-law is required. The affidavit should state that no application has been made for the appointment of an executor or administrator and that, insofar as the affiant can determine, no such application will be made; that they are the person entitled to the aircraft under the laws of the state having jurisdiction; or that under such laws they have the right to dispose of the aircraft. The affidavit should describe the aircraft by manufacturer, model, serial number, and registration number. A suggested heir-at-law affidavit can be found on our website.
- 38. TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY.** A certified true copy of the court order naming the trustee is required to show the trustee's authority to sign. The bankrupt party's name must be shown, followed by the signature and title of the trustee. (See Certified True Copy, Item 42)
- 39. TRUSTEE.** The applicant must submit a certified true copy of the complete trust instrument. If the trustor and/or beneficiary is a non-U.S. citizen, a copy of each document legally affecting a relationship under the trust must also be submitted pursuant to 14 C.F.R. Part 47.7(c)(2)(i). This document may be in the form of an operating agreement, or similar side agreement or arrangement, involving trustee and trustor or beneficiary, which always allows possession and use of the aircraft to remain with the trustor or beneficiary. If no such document exists, the owner trustee must provide sufficient assurances that no such operating agreement, or other side agreement or arrangement exists between the trustee and the trustor or beneficiary. This might take the form of a declaration by the owner trustee in an affidavit submitted in support of registration, that no such agreement or arrangement has been entered into by the trustee and the trustor or beneficiary. The aircraft registration certificate is issued to a single applicant as trustee, or to several trustees jointly as co-trustees. The trustee(s) must submit an affidavit to the effect that each beneficiary under the trust, including each person whose security interest in the aircraft is incorporated in the trust, is either a United States citizen or a resident alien. If any beneficiary under the trust, including any person whose security interest in the aircraft is incorporated in the trust, is not a United States citizen or resident alien, an affidavit is required from each trustee stating the trustee is not aware of any reason, situation, or relationship as a result of which those persons together would have more than 25 percent of the aggregate power to influence or limit the exercise of the trustees' authority. These affidavits are required under 14 C.F.R. Part 47.7(c)(2)(ii) and (iii). (See Certified True Copy, Item 42)
- 40. TRUST FORMED BY A PARTNERSHIP.** A partnership of which each member, considered separately, is a citizen of the United States may establish a trust and transfer legal title of the aircraft to the respective trustee(s). The partnership, whose members, considered separately, are citizens of the United States, may be a beneficiary under the trust although the partnership itself may not come within the definition of "citizen of the United States" by reason of one of the members being a corporation. The applicant trustee(s) must be either a United States citizen(s), including corporations, or resident alien(s) and must certify such on the Aircraft Registration Application. In addition, the trustee(s) must submit an affidavit that each beneficiary, including each person whose security interest in the aircraft is incorporated in the trust, is either a United States citizen or a resident alien [14 C.F.R. Part 47.7(c)(2)(ii)]. If, however, any beneficiary under the trust is not a United States citizen or resident alien, each trustee must submit an affidavit that the trustee is not aware of any reason, situation or relationship (involving beneficiaries or other persons not citizens or resident aliens) as a result of which those persons together would have more than 25 percent of the aggregate power to influence or limit the exercise of the trustees' authority [14 C.F.R. Part 47.7(c)(2)(iii)]. The original or a certified true copy of the complete trust agreement and each additional document legally affecting a relationship, including a security interest, under the trust is required. Alternatively, if the subject aircraft is not owned as a partnership asset, but is co-owned, and all the co-owners are individually eligible to register aircraft, the aircraft may be registered in the names of the co-owners. In any case where one or more of the co-owners is a corporation that is not a United States citizen, the requirements of 14 C.F.R. Part 47.9 must be complied with fully.

NAME CHANGE

- 41.** When a name change occurs, the original, certified true copy, or photocopy of the instrument approving the change is required, i.e., marriage certificate, certificate from the Secretary of State, certificate from the Comptroller of U.S. Currency, approved merger agreement, etc. A photocopy must show the official's name, title, and state seal if applicable. There is no fee for a simple name change. A \$5 registration fee and an Application for Registration is required for each aircraft when a merger, consolidation or conversion transfers the ownership of the aircraft to a different legal entity.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

42. A certified true copy must be a complete copy (front and back) of the original including all terms, signatures, and dates, to which is attached a signed statement that the copy has been compared with the original and that it is a certified true copy. The copy must be legible, reproducible, and printed on paper permanent in nature. A document issued by a court of law should be certified as true by an officer of the court. A certificate of incorporation must be certified as true either by the Secretary of State or by a corporate officer of the certificate holder.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

43. Aircraft registration forms and conveyances submitted as evidence of ownership or other interests in aircraft require the signature of the applicant, seller, builder, or other appropriate parties. The Aircraft Registration Branch accepts original ink signed documents, or printed duplicates of electronic documents that display legible digital signatures. A legible and acceptable digital signature will:
- Show the name of the signer applied in a manner to execute or validate the document; (Example: Digitally signed by *John J. Doe*).
 - Include the typed or printed name of the signer below or adjacent to the signature when the signature uses a digitized or scanned version of the signer's hand scribed signature, or the name is in a cursive font.
 - Show the signer's corporate, managerial, or partnership title as part of or adjacent to the digital signature when the signer is signing on behalf of an organization or legal entity.
 - Show evidence of authentication of the signer's identity such as the text "digitally signed by" along with the software provider's seal/ watermark and date and time of execution, or have an authentication code or key identifying the software provider; and
 - Use a font, size and color density that is clearly legible and reproducible when copied and scanned into a black on white format.

FEES

44. The fees for aircraft registration, registration renewal, duplicate certificate, replacement certificate, N-number reservation, N-number assignment, and dealers' registration certificates are published in 14 C.F.R. Part 47.17 - Fees. The fees for recording a Bill of Sale or similar evidence of ownership conveyance are published in 14 C.F.R. Part 49.15 - Fees.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (L.L.C.)

45. To determine if an L.L.C. qualifies as a citizen of the United States; its member's citizenship is measured against the citizenship definitions established by Title 49 U.S.C. 40102(a)(15)(A), (B), & (C), and its management structure is measured against 40102(a)(15)(C), which provide as follows:

"Citizen of the United States" means –

- an individual who is a citizen of the United States.
- a partnership each of whose partners is an individual who is a citizen of the United States; or
- a corporation or association organized under the laws of the United States or a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States, of which the president and at least two-thirds of the board of directors and other managing officers are citizens of the United States, and in which at least 75 percent of the voting interest is owned or controlled by persons that are citizens of the United States.

When submitting documents to register in the name of an L.L.C., one of the following must also be submitted:

- A copy of the document evidencing the organization of the L.L.C. (e.g., Certificate of Formation, Articles of Organization, or Operating Agreement). The document submitted must include the name of each of the members and clearly state whether management of the L.L.C. is vested in its members, in a manager, in its officers, etc. The citizenship of each member, manager or officer is also required and may be provided, in either a cover letter or separate statement; OR,

- A written representation that states how the L.L.C. qualifies as a citizen of the United States that is signed by and shows the title of a person with this knowledge. A satisfactory statement will include the following information and representations:

- The full name of the L.L.C.
- The State in which the L.L.C. is lawfully organized.
- The date the L.L.C. was legally formed or organized.
- The Name of each of the members of the L.L.C. and their type of entity (i.e., individual, corporation, partnership, L.L.C.). NOTE: If a general or limited partnership is involved in the L.L.C. as a member, manager, or officer, the statement should represent whether the partnership is comprised entirely of individuals (natural persons).
- Whether the L.L.C. is managed by its members, or by a manager(s) or officer(s). Show the title that will be used to sign all documents.
- The name of the manager(s) or officer(s), if applicable, and type of entity if other than a natural person.
- Whether the members, manager(s), or officer(s) may act independently. A non-citizen member or manager may not act independently in a management capacity.
- A description as to how each legal entity within the L.L.C. structure supports a determination that the L.L.C. is a citizen of the United States as required by 49 U.S.C. 40102(a)(15). If a partnership is involved in the L.L.C., the statement must represent the citizenship of each partner.

If the applicant L.L.C. includes a member or manager that is also an L.L.C., the above documentation must also be provided for the member or manager L.L.C.

If the management of the L.L.C. changes later, (e.g., originally managed by the members, but now by a manager), the L.L.C. must provide written notice of the change to the Registry. This may be submitted in the form of a written statement, a copy of minutes of a meeting, an amended operating agreement, etc. The submitted document must explain any changes or additions made and give the effective date of those changes or additions.