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SUMMARY OF FAA RE-REGISTRATION FINAL RULE

The final rule for Re-registration and Renewal of Aircraft Registration was published July 20, 2010, in the Federal Register by the FAA. The following is a brief summary of changes to the aircraft registration process.

1. Beginning with registrations dated October 1, 2010 and later, all Certificates of Aircraft Registration (AC Form 8050-3) issued by the FAA will have an expiration date which is three years from the last day of the month of the date of the issuance of the Certificate of Aircraft Registration.
2. All other aircraft registered on the FAA registry before October 1, 2010 will be required to re-register in accordance with the new rule which provides for a process of re-registration to take place over the next three years, according to a schedule based on the month of the original registration, as follows:

Certificate Issued in (of any year)	Certificate Expiration	Application for Re-registration required to be filed between these dates-to allow delivery of new certificate before expiration
March	March 31, 2011	11-1-10 and 1-31-11
April	June 30, 2011	02-1-11 and 4-30-11
May	September 30, 2011	05-1-11 and 07-31-11
June	December 31, 2011	08-1-11 and 10-31-11
July	March 31, 2012	11-1-11 and 01-31-12
August	June 30, 2012	02-1-12 and 04-30-12
September	September 30, 2012	05-1-12 and 07-31-12
October	December 31, 2012	08-1-12 and 10-31-12
November	March 31, 2013	11-1-12 and 01-31-13
December	June 30, 2013	02-1-13 and 04-30-13
January	September 30, 2013	05-1-13 and 07-31-13
February	December 31, 2013	08-1-13 and 10-31-13

Owners may review the “hard card” permanent Certificate of Aircraft Registration kept on the aircraft to determine the month of issue for the Certificate of Aircraft Registration or may consult the FAA Aircraft Registry website at http://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/NNum_Inquiry.aspx to determine the Certificate Issue date.

3. Application for Aircraft Re-registration will be by means of submission of an Application for Aircraft Re-registration (AC Form 8050-1A) which will be available from the Registry at its website and a fee, currently set at \$5. For those owners whose information has not changed, re-registration may be done online. For owners whose information has changed, the application will need to be submitted by mail or in person, as initial Aircraft Registration Applications are currently submitted. The two (2) months between the time that the re-registration is required to be submitted and the date that the Certificate expires is intended to provide adequate time for the FAA to process and mail the new Certificates to the owners that have complied with the re-registration procedure. The Registry will continue to process late applications after the three (3) month filing period closes, but due to processing and mailing times the aircraft certificate may expire and the aircraft may be without authorization to operate until the new Certificate of Registration is received by the owner.

4. Owners will receive two reminder notices from the FAA Registry prior to the expiration of the registration. The first will be sent 180 days prior to a scheduled expiration date and include basic instructions for re-registration and will identify the three month window for filing the re-registration. The second notice will be sent at the end of the filing window to owners who have not yet re-registered. The notices will contain a unique passcode allowing online filing until the close of the assigned filing window.

5. The rule provides the Registry with the authority to cancel any registration that is not submitted according to this schedule. Aircraft registrations not re-registered and subsequently due for cancellation by the Registry may remain active files for approximately ninety (90) days in case of a late re-registration. After that registration will be cancelled and the N number will not be available for assignment for five (5) years. Should a registered aircraft owner miss the deadline for re-registration and the registration is cancelled they will be required to apply for a new registration by submitting an Aircraft Registration Application (Form AC 8050-1) along with the regular registration fee of \$5. Their original N number will be unavailable so a new N number will be required.

6. If a replacement certificate becomes necessary for a Certificate of Aircraft Registration issued after October 1, 2010, due to destruction or loss of the original, the replacement will have the same expiration date as the original.

7. Expired registration cards are to be destroyed rather than returned to the FAA.

8. This final rule also contains other changes to the rules including “Renewal of Certificates of Aircraft Registration”, “Sale Reported”, “Registration Pending” and “Dealer Registrations” which are not included in this brief summary.

This summary is provided for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice. A copy of the Final Rule is available in the Articles section at www.coolinglaw.com.