



FAA Relief for General and Business Aviation Provides Much Needed Flexibility

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On Wednesday, April 29, 2019, the FAA approved regulatory changes applicable to general and business aviation. These changes were welcomed by the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and the aviation community, as they provide owners, operators, and pilots of general and business aircraft with the flexibility that many need in order to modify their daily operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

By way of example, the “stay-at-home” orders in many areas have prevented pilots and operators from maintaining compliance with currency, training, and other requirements. To address these concerns, the FAA issued a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR). The SFAR has not been officially published, but the approved form includes relief for:

- Part 61 flight reviews, currency, proficiency checks, medical certificates, and flight instructor renewals;
- Part 91 Subpart K (Fractional Programs) Flight Crewmember Requirements;
- Part 125 Flight Crewmember Requirements; and
- Part 141 flight school renewals and rating requirements.

This is not a comprehensive list and is only a brief overview of the types of training, renewals, and certifications that have been temporarily relieved under the SFAR. The full text of the approved SFAR can be found here: <https://nbaa.org/wp-content/uploads/aircraft-operations/safety/coronavirus/FAA-SFAR-118-COVID-19-Relief.pdf> .

This SFAR follows the FAA’s March 25, 2020, relief for Part 135 operators, which exempted them from training requirements related to crew safety and provided them with an additional three months to complete recurrent training. See the NBAA’s summary of these Part 135 extensions here: <https://nbaa.org/aircraft-operations/safety/coronavirus/faa-responds-to-nbaas-call-for-covid-19-accommodations-on-part-135-training/> .



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