

Federal Aviation Agency



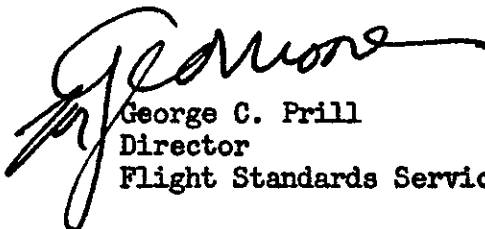
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SUBJECT : HELICOPTER OR GYROPLANE CLASS RATING
REQUIREMENT FOR ROTORCRAFT PILOTS

1. PURPOSE. This circular has been prepared to call the attention of certificated rotorcraft pilots to the fact that HELICOPTER or GYROPLANE class ratings are required for the operation of rotorcraft after February 1, 1963, by private and commercial pilots.
 2. THE REGULATION. An amendment to Part 20 of the Civil Air Regulations effective July 12, 1962, (now subparagraphs 61.15(c), (e), and (f) of Part 61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations) provides for the issuance of class ratings to rotorcraft pilots for the operation of helicopters and gyroplanes. Since operating regulations require the possession of appropriate ratings by pilots, this amendment permits the holders of ROTORCRAFT category ratings (or HELICOPTER or AUTOGIRO category ratings) to operate until February 1, 1963, without obtaining the new class ratings. Pilots have now had six months to obtain these ratings.
 3. PROCEDURE. The holder of a valid pilot certificate bearing a ROTORCRAFT category rating issued prior to July 12, 1962 (without class rating), a HELICOPTER category rating, or an AUTOGIRO category rating may exchange it without further showing for a rotorcraft category rating with a class rating on the aircraft in which he qualified for his rating. In addition, a pilot who qualified for his rotorcraft rating on a helicopter may obtain a GYROPLANE class rating as well as his HELICOPTER class rating if he flew gyroplanes at least ten hours as pilot-in-command within the 12-month period before July 12, 1962.
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Application may be made at any Federal Aviation Agency General Aviation or Air Carrier District Office before or after February 1, 1963; however, certificates without class ratings are not valid for rotorcraft flight operations after that date.



George C. Prill
Director
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