

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Proposed Advisory Circulars: 66-XX, Part 66—The New Certification Regulations for Aviation Maintenance Personnel; 66-XX, Recurrent Training for Aviation Maintenance Personnel, and 66-XX, Approval of Aviation Maintenance Technician (Transport) Training Program Providers**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed advisory circulars (ACs) and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of and requests comments on the following proposed ACs: 66-XX, Part 66—The New Certification Regulations for Aviation Maintenance Personnel; 66-XX, Recurrent Training for Aviation Maintenance Personnel, and 66-XX, Approval of Aviation Maintenance Technician (Transport) Training Program Providers. The FAA recently has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) titled Revision of Certification Requirements: Mechanics and Repairmen, published elsewhere in this separate part of the **Federal Register**. That NPRM would propose the addition of part 66 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) and make significant revisions to the certification and training requirements for aviation maintenance personnel. The proposed ACs would explain the changes proposed in the NPRM, provide guidance on complying with the recurrent training provisions of proposed part 66, and provide information to organizations seeking approval as aviation maintenance technician (transport) (AMT(T)) training providers.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed ACs to: Federal Aviation Administration, Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Division (AFS-300), Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591. Comments may be examined at the above address between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie K. Vipond, AFS-350, Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Division,

Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-3269.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Comments Invited**

A copy of each draft AC may be obtained by contracting the person named above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed ACs by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Commenters should identify the AC to which comment is being made and submit comments in duplicate to the address specified above. By separate document published elsewhere in this separate part of the **Federal Register**, the FAA also is inviting interested persons to comment on the NPRM titled Revision of Certification Requirements: Mechanics and Repairmen. The FAA will consider comments on this notice and on the NPRM in deciding the final action of each. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the FAA before issuing the final ACs.

Discussion

Current regulations prescribing the certification and training requirements for aviation maintenance personnel do not reflect the significant technological advances that have occurred in the aviation industry, the extensive differences in maintenance skills required of currently certificated personnel, and recent enhancements in training and instructional methods. To ensure the regulations governing aviation maintenance personnel remain consistent with changes in the aviation environment, the FAA has conducted a multiphase review of the certification and training requirements that pertain to mechanics and repairmen. A complete regulatory review of the certification requirements for these airmen has not been accomplished since the recodification of the Civil Air Regulations into the Federal Aviation Regulations on August 10, 1962.

Elsewhere in this separate part of the **Federal Register**, the FAA has issued the NPRM titled Revision of Certification Requirements: Mechanics and Repairmen. The proposed rule would consolidate and clarify all certification, training, and experience requirements for aviation maintenance

personnel in a newly established 14 CFR part 66. The proposed rule would create additional certificates and ratings and would modify the privileges and limitations of current certificates to respond more closely to the responsibilities of aviation maintenance personnel. In addition, the proposal would establish new training requirements that would enhance the technical capabilities of an increase the level of professionalism among aviation maintenance personnel. Further, the proposal would provide the FAA with essential demographic information that could be used to disseminate vital aviation safety and training information, thereby enhancing aviation safety. All of the proposals in the NPRM were extensively researched for the FAA by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) Part 65 Working Group and based on the ARCA's recommendations.

To provide the public with additional guidance on complying with the proposed requirements, the FAA has drafted three ACs. AC 66-XX, Part 66—The New Certification Regulations for Aviation Maintenance personnel, discusses the new certification and training requirements in a question-and-answer format. AC 66-XX, Recurrent Training for Aviation Maintenance Personnel, provides guidance to aviation maintenance personnel concerning the fulfillment of recurrent training requirements proposed for holders of aviation maintenance technician (AMT) and AMT(T) certificates who exercise the privileges of their certificates for compensation or hire and do not participate in maintenance and preventive maintenance training programs regulated by 14 CFR part 121, 135, or 145. AC 66-XX, Approval of Aviation Maintenance Technician (Transport) Training Program Providers, furnishes guidance to assist persons in obtaining FAA approval as AMT(T) training program providers.

The proposed ACs would become effective only after a final rule revising the certification requirements for mechanics and repairmen becomes effective.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 26, 1998.

Ava L. Mims,

Acting Director, Flight Standards Service.

[FR Doc. 98-17591 Filed 7-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M