

[Docket No. 6900; Amdt. 67-3]

**PART 67—MEDICAL STANDARDS
AND CERTIFICATION**

**Distant Visual Acuity; First- and
Second-Class Medical Certificates**

The purpose of these amendments is to change the distant visual acuity requirement for an applicant for a first- or second-class medical certificate from at least 20/50 to 20/100 in each eye separately before correction. This action was proposed in notice 65-22 (30 F.R. 11732) issued September 7, 1965. All comments received on the proposal were favorable.

The present standard in §§ 67.13(b)(1) and 67.15(b)(1) of Part 67 of the Federal Aviation Regulations requires an applicant for a first- or second-class

medical certificate, respectively, to have distant visual acuity of at least 20/50 in each eye separately, before correction to 20/20 or better with corrective glasses. As stated in the preamble of notice 65-22, this standard has been in effect unchanged since 1938, despite later significant technological advances in design and performance of aircraft, and in the environment in which they are operated. Also, as stated in that preamble, applicants with uncorrected distant visual acuity less than specified in the present standard, except those with gross myopic conditions, generally have been allowed to show under § 67.19 whether they have been able to operate aircraft without endangering safety in air commerce despite the disqualification. If they have not had other major disturbances in visual functions, they almost invariably have been able to demonstrate favorably, and they have received special issue of medical certificates on an individual basis. This process has required special detailed evaluations of all aspects of their vision, and has been expensive to applicants, both in money expended for ophthalmological examinations, and in issuance delay time, and it also has entailed considerable time and effort on the part of the Agency.

Accordingly, the accompanying amendments accommodate the distant visual acuity standard for first- and second-class medical certificates to cur-

rent conditions, and dispense with special testing that in the great majority of cases would result in the special issue of a certificate anyway, without adverse effect upon safety.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of these amendments, and due consideration has been given to all matter presented.

Since these amendments are relaxatory in nature and impose no burden upon any person, good cause exists for making them effective on less than 30 days published notice.

In consideration of the foregoing, Part 67 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is amended, effective November 23, 1965, as follows:

1. Paragraph (b)(1) of § 67.13 is amended by striking out the figures "20/50" and inserting the figures "20/100" in place thereof.

2. Paragraph (b)(1) of § 67.15 is amended by striking out the figures "20/50" and inserting the figures "20/100" in place thereof.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 602, Federal Aviation Act of 1958; 49 U.S.C. 1354, 1421, 1422)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 16, 1965.

D. D. THOMAS,
Acting Administrator.

[F.R. Doc. 65-12526; Filed, Nov. 22, 1965; 8:45 a.m.]

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