

Commercial Balloon Operations

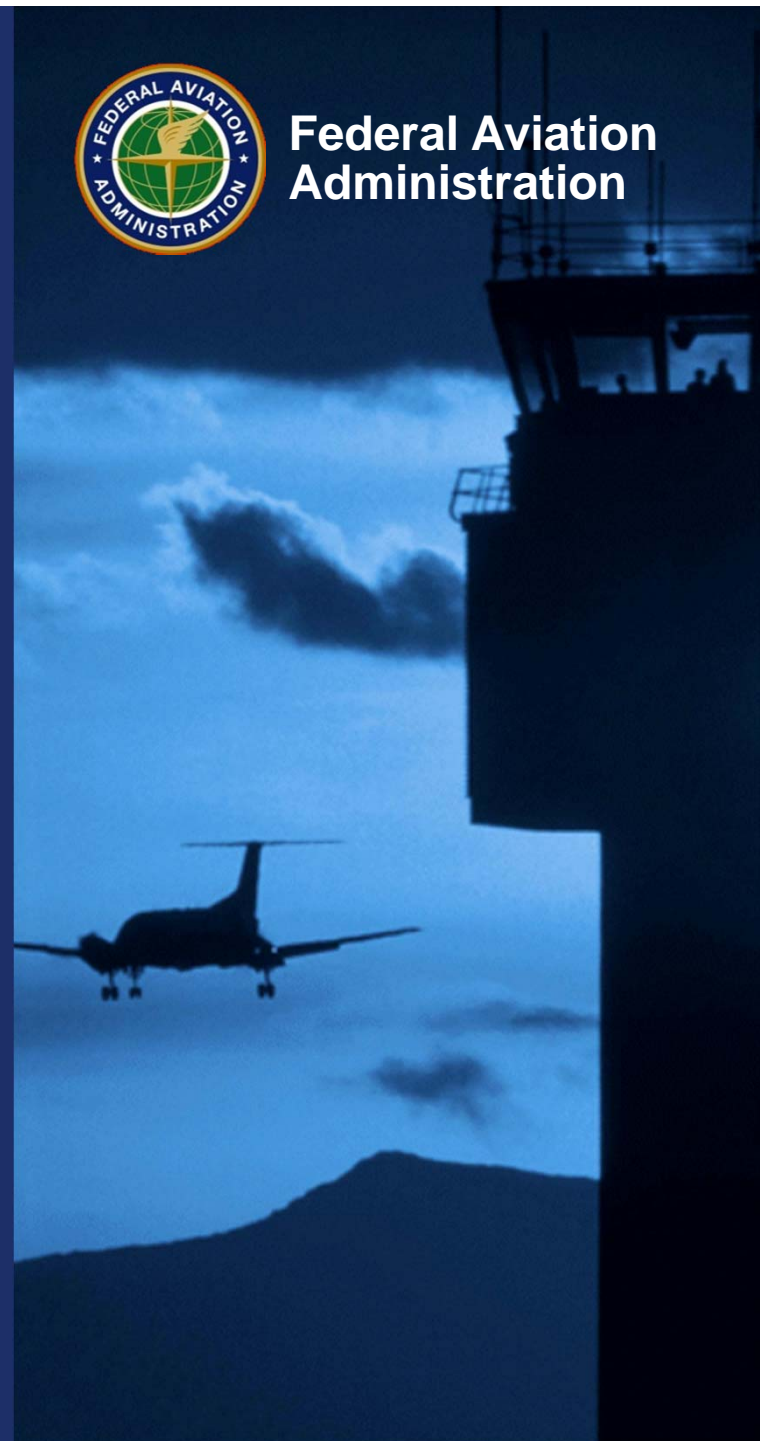
Presented to: NTSB Public Hearing

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**Federal Aviation
Administration**



Pilot Certification – Part 61

Commercial Pilot with Lighter-than-air Category and Balloon Class Rating

- **Ground & Flight Training** in 11 Specific Areas of Operation
- **Aeronautical Experience**
 - 35 hours of flight time as a pilot, including at least:
 - ✓ 20 hours in balloons;
 - ✓ 10 *flights* in balloons;
 - ✓ 2 *flights* in balloons as the pilot in command; *and*
 - ✓ 10 hours of flight training including 10 training *flights*
- **No requirement for Medical Certificate**

Operational Regulations – Part 91

- Balloon ride operations must be conducted within the general operating and flight rules as set forth in 14 CFR part 91. These include, but are not limited to:
 - General Rules
 - Flight Rules
 - Equipment, Instrument & Certificate Requirements;
 - Maintenance and Alterations Requirements
- FAA may perform oversight of commercial balloon operations to ensure compliance with these items.



Airworthiness Standards: Manned Free Balloons – Part 31

Balloons must comply with airworthiness standards for the issuance of type certificates, and changes to those certificates, as set forth in 14 CFR Part 31. These include:

- General Rules
- Flight Requirements
- Strength Requirements
- Design Construction
- Equipment
- Operating Limitations & Information
- Instructions for Continued Airworthiness



Drug & Alcohol Reporting Requirements

- **14 CFR Part 61.15** - *Requires certificate holders to report the following:*
 - Convictions of certain drug offenses
 - Motor vehicle actions (MVA) – i.e. conviction related to operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - To be reported to Civil Aviation Security Division (AMC-700) within 60 days after the action.



FAA Publications Regarding Balloons

- ***Balloon Flying Handbook*** – FAA-H-8083-11A
- ***Advisory Circular AC 91-71 – Operation of Hot Air Balloons with Airborne Heaters***
- ***Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards - Lighter than Air (Balloon and Airship)*** – FAA-S-8081-18
- ***Balloon Safety Tips Pamphlets***
 - *Powerlines and Thunderstorms* - FAA-P-8740-34
 - *False Lift, Shear, and Rotors* - FAA – P-8740-39
- ***Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS)- FAA Order 8900.1 – Inspector Guidance for Part 91 Surveillance, Balloon Inspections, etc.***



Questions ?

