

Update: Special rule sets limited conditions for extensions and deadlines during pandemic

Extensions applicable to all pilots (regardless of the type of flying) include:

- **Medical certificates.** The FAA extended the validity periods of airman medical certificates that expire between March 31 and May 31 through June 30. However, the prohibition on operations during medical deficiency remains in effect.
- **Knowledge tests.** Applicants whose knowledge tests expire between March and June will have their knowledge tests' validity extended by three calendar months, making the applicants eligible for a practical test for a certificate or rating issued under Part 61 for those additional three calendar months.
- **Flight instructors.** Flight instructor certificates, unlike pilot certificates, expire every 24 calendar months. The SFAR will extend the validity of flight instructor certificates that expired between March 31 and May 31 until June 30 in certain circumstances.

Provisions tied to specific types of flight operations include:

- **Flight reviews.** The FAA is offering a three-calendar-month "grace period" for those whose flight review may expire between March 1 and June 30 if they meet the applicability requirements. A condition of eligibility for the extension is that the pilot must have been current in March 2020, logged at least 10 hours of pilot in command time within the 12 calendar months preceding the month the flight review was due, in an aircraft for which that pilot is rated. Also, eligible pilots must complete [FAA Safety Team](#) online courses totaling at least three Wings credits. The courses must have been completed in January 2020 or later to meet this requirement, according to the rule.
- **Recent flight experience, pilot in command.** The FAA only provided relief for instrument recency. The SFAR extends to June 30 the requirement to be instrument current under FAR 61.57(c) for those who meet the applicability requirements. A pilot must have performed and logged, within the nine calendar months preceding the month of the flight, six instrument approaches, holding procedures and tasks, and intercepting and tracking courses through the use of navigational electronic systems. An additional eligibility requirement is that the pilot must have logged, in the preceding six calendar months, three instrument approaches in actual weather conditions, or under simulated conditions using a view-limiting device. Pilots who are unable to meet the instrument experience requirements before June 30 may still reestablish recency in accordance with FAR 61.57(d), but the number of months available to attain the instrument experience before having to take an instrument proficiency check "will depend on when the person last established instrument recency" in accordance with the regulation.

If you choose to extend your flight review or instrument currency under the [SFAR](#), you should review the applicability requirements and limitations that are based on the grade of pilot certificate you hold, the intended operation, and for private pilots, other requirements.