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Administrator Announces New Pilot Certificate

By Randy Dufault

FAA Administrator Marion Blakey announced during her EAA AirVenture forum Thursday, that, effective immediately, the FAA will begin issuing a new style airman certificate card.

The new credit card-sized card, made from plastic instead of paper, is inherently less prone to damage and will feature a number of security features, including a hologram of the FAA seal.

“The new certificate’s durability and features will further protect pilot identities and add one more element of security to our aviation system,” said Blakey.

The certificates will be issued to new and existing airmen as they achieve higher levels or additional ratings. It will also replace certificates that have been lost or damaged.

There are no changes in the current student pilot certificate or with temporary certificates issued by examiners.

Multiple cards will be issued for pilots with too many ratings to fit on a single card.

The process for requesting a replacement certificate in the event of an address change, or if a current certificate is lost or damaged, has not changed. According to Roland Herwig of the FAA in Oklahoma City, the preferred request method is to use the electronic form available at www.registry.faa.gov. The cost of a replacement certificate will remain the same.

Issuing the new cards is expected to take the same amount of time as the current paper version. However, when asked what sort of delays might occur if a large portion of the pilot population immediately requested a replacement for their “lost” certificate, Herwig responded, “We are hoping that we are as prepared as possible, but we will do what we can.”

In keeping with this year’s Centennial of Flight celebration, the new certificate features graphics of the Wright brothers, the 1902 Wright Glider, 1903 Wright Flyer, and a Boeing jet aircraft as well as the DOT seal and the hologram of the FAA seal.