

§107.65 SFAR FAQ

Q: Who does the SFAR apply to?

A: The SFAR applies to an airman:

1. Who is certificated as a remote pilot under part 107; *and*
2. Whose recency of knowledge lapses between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020; *and*
3. Who must meet recency of knowledge requirements by passing an aeronautical knowledge test per §107.65(a) or (b)

Q: What does the SFAR do?

A: An airman who is eligible and complies with the provisions of the SFAR will be able to take either online training course (ALC-451 or ALC-515) at www.faa.gov in lieu of taking an aeronautical knowledge test at a knowledge testing center required by §107.65(a) or (b). Completing the online training course under the provisions of the SFAR will extend an airman's aeronautical knowledge recency six calendar months.

Q: Does the SFAR give me permission to operate my UAS business during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: No. It only provides a method for an airman who meets the SFAR criteria to continue exercising the privileges of their remote pilot certificate. The authority to open/operate a business remains with your state or local government.

Q: When am I due to establish recency of knowledge and when does my recency of knowledge lapse?

A: An airman is due to establish recency of knowledge in the 24th calendar month from the month they last completed training/testing. Recency of knowledge lapses (“expires”) on the first day of the 25th calendar month from the month they last completed training/testing.

Q: What is a “calendar month”?

A: A calendar month contains all dates within that month. For example, if an airman received their initial remote pilot certification (or established recency of knowledge) on April 18th, 2018, they would be current through April 30, 2020 (the 24th calendar month). In this example, on May 1, 2020, the airman would not be permitted to exercise the privileges of their remote pilot certificate until they met the requirements of §107.65.

Q: Does my remote pilot certificate expire?

No. Remote Pilot certificates do not expire. The ability to exercise the privileges of the certificate must be established every 24 calendar months by complying with §107.65.

Q: My currency expired on March 1, 2020 (or earlier), am I eligible for this relief?

A: No. An airman whose recency of knowledge (“currency”) lapsed on March 1, 2020 was not restricted by COVID-19 pandemic procedures from visiting a knowledge testing center in February, 2020.

Q: What happens if I’m not eligible for the SFAR relief?

A: If your recency of knowledge expired in March 2020 (or before), you may still be able to operate under part 107, provided you can comply with §107.12(a)(2). That regulation permits a person to operate a small UAS under part 107 without holding a remote pilot certificate as long as they are under direct supervision of a Remote Pilot who is current per §107.65.

Q: Does this provide relief for initial certification of remote pilots under part 107 as well?

A: No. Applicants for a remote pilot certificate must comply with §107.63. The SFAR does not offer any relief for those requirements.

Q: If I qualify for initial certification under §107.63(a)(2) and I cannot visit a FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), who can process my application?

A: Any FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE), Airman Certification Representative (ACR), or Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) may process applications under §107.63(a)(2).

Note: CFIs are not authorized to issue a temporary certificate and the applicant will need to wait until the Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) notifies the applicant that their temporary airman certificate is available for printing.

Q: Do I need to create an account on www.faasafety.gov in order to take either of the online training courses identified in the SFAR?

A: Yes. In order for credit to be given for completing the online course, the user must create an account. There is no cost for creating an account.

Q: If I don't have access to the internet or a computer, will I be able to take the training course another way?

A: No. The SFAR only provides relief by completing either training course (ALC-451 or ALC-515) online at www.faasafety.gov.

Q: May a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) endorse my recency of knowledge to meet the requirements of §107.65?

A: No. CFIs are not authorized to endorse recency of knowledge required by §107.65.

Q: Is the FAA extending recency of knowledge without enforcement action, like they did for medical certificates?

A: No. To use the relief provided by the SFAR, an airman must be eligible and complete one of the training courses identified.

Q: If I still meet the currency requirements under §61.56 and I complete the online training course per §107.65(c), do I still get a new 24 calendar month period?

A: Yes. An airman who qualifies for recency of knowledge per §107.65(c) without using the provisions of the SFAR will still be able to complete the online training course and establish a new 24 calendar month period.

Q: If I qualify for §61.56 relief under the SFAR, will I still be able to establish my recency of knowledge per §107.65(c)?

A: Yes. If you are receiving SFAR relief for the currency requirements under §61.56, you may use that relief and establish recency of knowledge under §107.65(c) which will be valid for 24 calendar months.

Q: What happens after the additional six calendar months of aeronautical knowledge recency the SFAR provides or the SFAR is terminated?

A: Unless otherwise extended, an airman who is in their sixth calendar month must comply with §107.65 as written in order to continue exercising the privileges of their remote pilot certificate in the following calendar month. For example, if an airman completes the online training per the SFAR on May 4th, 2020, prior to November 1st, 2020 they will need to establish recency of knowledge by complying with §107.65 as written. Termination of the SFAR will require compliance with §107.65 as written.

Q: Can I take the online training identified in the SFAR multiple times to get additional six calendar month extensions?

A: No. An airman operating in accordance with the SFAR will be allowed to take the training course a single time to establish recency of knowledge. Completing the training course an additional time, will not “reset” the six calendar month extension.

Q: Do I need to carry additional documents with me when operating under the provisions of the SFAR?

A: An airmen operating under the SFAR must remain in compliance with §107.7 and make available to the Administrator “Any other document, record, or report required to be kept under the regulations of this chapter.” This includes documentation that shows eligibility for the SFAR and the training course completion certificate used under the provisions of the SFAR.

Q: I can’t find my previous aeronautical knowledge test/training course certificate. How may I obtain a copy of my previous certificate required by the SFAR?

A: To obtain a copy of a previous aeronautical knowledge test certificate, contact the Airman Certification Branch at (866) 878-2498. If an airman completed the online training course at www.faasafety.gov, they may re-print their certificate from their account.

Q: What subject areas are not included in the online training courses that are required under §107.73?

A: Airspace classification, flight restrictions, and their operating requirements as well as airport operations are not included in the online training courses. The FAA recommends that remote pilots eligible for relief under the SFAR review those subject areas after completing the online training.