

# TSA Rule Clarification

November 15, 2004

1. Aliens who currently hold a pilot certificate and begin training for a new certificate or rating prior to December 20, 2004, do not need to comply with the TSA rule. Foreign students must, however, complete the entire process when they seek a certificate or rating after December 20, 2004.
2. As currently written, the rule requires every person (pilot) to prove his or her citizenship status prior to undertaking flight training for the issuance of a new certificate or rating, or the addition of a certificate or rating in an aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds or less. Additionally, foreign flight students must complete a background check (computerized) with TSA.
3. U.S. Citizens who begin training for a new or additional certificate or rating on or after October 10, 2004 must present (date was extended to December 20, 2004) documented proof to the flight school and/or flight instructor with evidence of U.S. citizenship.
4. Instructors must comply with one of the following two options prior to December 20, 2004:
  - a. Make an endorsement in both the instructor's and student's logbook, or other records used by the instructor to record flight student endorsements, using the following wording:

**“I certify that (insert student's name) has presented me a (insert type of document, i.e., current passport, raised seal birth certificate with relevant control or sequence number, if any) establishing that (he or she) is a U.S. citizen or national in accordance with 49 CFR 1552.3(h). (Insert date and instructor's signature and CFI number.)”**

- b. A copy of the documents that prove citizenship must be kept for five years.

5. Flight training may begin after the applicable documents have been reviewed and either the logbook endorsements are made or copies of the documents are obtained by the instructor.