§ 47.1 Applicability.

This part prescribes the requirements for registering aircraft under 49 U.S.C. 44101–44104. Subpart B applies to each applicant for, and holder of, a Certificate of Aircraft Registration. Subpart C applies to each applicant for and holder of, a Dealers’ Aircraft Registration Certificate.

[Amdt. 47–27, 70 FR 244, Jan. 3, 2005]

§ 47.2 Definitions.

The following are definitions of terms used in this part:

Resident alien means an individual citizen of a foreign country lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States as an immigrant in conformity with the regulations of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice (8 CFR Chapter 1).

U.S. citizen means one of the following:

(1) An individual who is a citizen of the United States or one of its possessions;

(2) A partnership of which each member is such an individual;

(3) A corporation or association created or organized under the laws of the United States or of any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, of which the president and two-thirds or more of the board of directors and other managing officers thereof are such individuals and in which at least 75 percent of the voting interest is owned or controlled by persons who are citizens of the United States or of one of its possessions.


§ 47.3 Registration required.

(a) An aircraft may be registered under 49 U.S.C. 44103 only when the aircraft is—

(1) Not registered under the laws of a foreign country and is owned by—

(i) A citizen of the United States;

(ii) An individual citizen of a foreign country lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; or

(iii) A corporation not a citizen of the United States when the corporation is organized and doing business under the laws of the United States or a State, and the aircraft is based and primarily used in the United States; or

(2) An aircraft of—

(i) The United States Government; or

(ii) A State, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision of a State, territory, or possession.

(b) No person may operate an aircraft that is eligible for registration under 49 U.S.C. 44101–44104, unless the aircraft—

(1) Has been registered by its owner;

(2) Is carrying aboard the temporary authorization required by §47.31(b); or

(3) Is an aircraft of the Armed Forces.

(c) Governmental units are those named in paragraph (a) of this section and Puerto Rico.


§ 47.5 Applicants.

(a) A person who wishes to register an aircraft in the United States must submit an Application for Aircraft Registration under this part.

(b) An aircraft may be registered only by and in the legal name of its owner.

(c) 49 U.S.C. 44103(c), provides that registration is not evidence of ownership of aircraft in any proceeding in which ownership by a particular person is in issue. The FAA does not issue any certificate of ownership or endorse any information with respect to ownership on a Certificate of Aircraft Registration. The FAA issues a Certificate of Aircraft Registration to the person who appears to be the owner on the basis of the evidence of ownership submitted pursuant to §47.11 with the Application for Aircraft Registration, or recorded at the FAA Aircraft Registry.

(d) In this part, “owner” includes a buyer in possession, a bailee, or a lessee of an aircraft under a contract of conditional sale, and the assignee of that person.