DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 3, 61, 63, and 65

[Docket No.: FAA–2018–0656; Amendment Nos. 3–2, 61–143, 63–42, and 65–59]

RIN 2120–AL04

Security Threat Disqualification Update

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is amending and consolidating the security threat disqualification regulations. This final rule establishes the FAA’s procedures in regulation for amending, modifying, suspending, and revoking FAA-issued certificates and any part of such certificates issued to individuals based on written notification by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that a certificate holder poses a security threat. The final rule also clarifies the FAA’s process for denying or holding in abeyance applications for certificates and any part of such certificates when the TSA notifies the FAA that an applicant poses a security threat.

DATES: Effective October 18, 2019.

ADDRESSES: For information on where to obtain copies of rulemaking documents and other information related to this final rule, see “How To Obtain Additional Information” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions concerning this action, contact Courtney Freeman, Office of the Chief Counsel, AGC–200, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267–3073; email Courtney.Freeman@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA’s authority to issue rules on aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.). Subtitle I, Section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Program, describes in more detail the scope of the agency’s authority.

This rulemaking is promulgated under 49 U.S.C. 106(f), which establishes the authority of the Administrator to promulgate regulations and rules; and 49 U.S.C. 44701(a)(5), which requires the Administrator to promote safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations and setting minimum standards for other practices, methods, and procedures necessary for safety in air commerce and national security.

This rulemaking is also promulgated pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 46111, which requires the Administrator to amend, modify, suspend, or revoke any certificate or any part of a certificate issued under Title 49 when the TSA notifies the FAA that the holder of the certificate poses or is suspected of posing a risk of air piracy or terrorism or a threat to airline or passenger safety.

Additionally, this rulemaking is promulgated pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44903(j)(2)(D)(i), which requires that TSA coordinate with the Administrator of the FAA to ensure that individuals are screened before being certificated by the FAA. Thus, the FAA will not issue a certificate to a screened individual identified by TSA as a security threat.

I. Executive Summary

A. Purpose of the Regulatory Action

This rulemaking amends the current FAA security threat disqualification regulations in title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) §§ 61.18, 63.14, and 65.14 and consolidates them into part 3 of 14 CFR. Those regulations provide, in sum, that no person is eligible to hold a certificate, rating, or authorization issued under each corresponding or respective part when the TSA notifies the FAA in writing of an adverse security threat determination.

Since 2004, the FAA has not applied these regulations to United States (U.S.) citizens or resident aliens, instead relying on the statutory authority in 49 U.S.C. 46111, Public Law 108–176 (December 12, 2003), and 49 U.S.C. 44903(j)(2)(D)(i), Public Law 108–458 (December 17, 2004), enacted after the FAA issued its security threat disqualification regulations. Section 46111 directs the FAA to take action against “any part of a certificate” issued under Title 49 in response to a security threat determination by the TSA and also provides a hearing and appeal