

Proposed Inspection Rating (IR) Brief

Summary of FAA proposed changes to the Inspection Authorization

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The new proposed changes (see [NPRM here](#)) to the current Inspection Authorization (IA) system are designed to reduce administrative burden on both the FAA and mechanics and streamline both the testing and renewal process.

We summarize the proposed changes to the IA system in the table below:

	Current IA System	Proposed Inspection Rating (IR)
Classification	Separate Inspection Authorization	<u>Permanent rating</u> on the mechanic certificate
Expiration	Authorization expires every two years	<u>Never</u> expires
Renewal Process	Required every odd year	None
Qualification	FAA reviews qualification prior to renewal	<u>Mechanic maintains</u> rolling experience requirements
Privileges	Annual & progressive inspections, major repairs/alterations	No change
Currency	Lose IA if not renewed	Keep rating, <u>but lose ability to exercise</u> until currency is re-established
Currency Requirements	4 annual inspections per year over the last two years or 8 hours continuing education	<u>Expands list of criteria</u> to include major repairs and alterations, progressive inspections or an oral exam by an ASI
Lapse	Lose IA if not renewed	<u>Regain privileges</u> through an 8-hour course or oral exam by an ASI
Testing	IA knowledge test	New Inspection Rating knowledge test <u>based on a formal ACS</u>
Proof	Separate IA Card	"Inspection" appears as a rating alongside Airframe and Powerplant on the mechanic certificate

The largest notable change is in making the IA a permanent "Inspection" (IR) rating that gives mechanics the same IA privileges, but never lapses, and instead is based on currency requirements.

These currency requirements go beyond the existing "4 annuals" per year or "8 hours" of continuing education to include (8) major/minor alterations, (1) progressive inspection, or an oral exam by an ASI. Similar to pilot currency, if you are exercising the privileges of an "IR", be ready to prove you are current if you are ramp checked.

