his own behalf, and cross-examine witnesses appearing in behalf of the Director.

(1) In any case in which the U.S. Registered Pilot, after being duly served with the notice of the time and place of the hearing, fails to appear at the time and place specified for the hearing, a notation to that effect shall be made in the record and the hearing may then be conducted ''in absentia.''

(2) The Administrative Law Judge shall also cause to be placed in the record all the facts concerning the issuance and service of the notice of hearing and the allegations against the U.S. Registered Pilot.

(b) The Director through counsel shall appear, present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine the witnesses called on behalf of the U.S. Registered Pilot.

(c) In the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge, other witnesses may testify at the hearing.

[32 FR 14222, Oct. 13, 1967. Redesignated at 61 FR 32655, June 25, 1996, and further redesignated by USCG–1998–3976, 63 FR 35139, June 29, 1998]

§401.635 Evidence which shall be excluded.

The Administrative Law Judge presiding at the hearing shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence.

[29 FR 11595, Aug. 13, 1964. Redesignated at 61 FR 32655, June 25, 1996, and further redesignated by USCG–1998–3976, 63 FR 35139, June 29, 1998]

§401.640 Record for decision.

The transcript of testimony and oral argument at the hearing, together with any exhibits received, shall be made part of the record for decision, and the record shall be available to the respondent or applicant on payment of costs thereof.

[29 FR 11595, Aug. 13, 1964. Redesignated at 61 FR 32655, June 25, 1996, and further redesignated by USCG–1998–3976, 63 FR 35139, June 29, 1998]

§401.645 Administrative Law Judge's decision; exceptions thereto.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the parties may submit briefs and recommended conclusions and findings within such time as the Administrative Law Judge shall determine appropriate. The Administrative Law Judge shall thereafter issue a written initial decision in the case, which decision shall be final and binding upon the Director, except as provided in §401.650.

[29 FR 11595, Aug. 13, 1964, as amended at 32 FR 14222, Oct. 13, 1967. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 32655, June 25, 1996, and further redesignated and amended by USCG–1998–3976, 63 FR 35139, 35140, June 29, 1998]

§401.650 Review of Administrative Law Judge's initial decision.

(a) The Commandant may, on his own motion, or on the basis of a petition filed by the U.S. Registered Pilot in the proceedings or the Commandant, review any initial decision of the Administrative Law Judge by entering a written order stating that he elects to review the action of the Administrative Law Judge. Copies of all orders for review, replies, and decisions shall be served on all parties.

(b) A petition for review shall be in writing and shall state the grounds upon which the petition relies. A petition for review shall be limited to the record before the Administrative Law Judge. Five (5) copies of such a petition for review, together with proof of service on all parties, shall be filed with the Commandant (CL) within fifteen (15) days after the date of service of the initial decision of the Administrative Law Judge. Parties may file replies, in writing, to a petition for review, with proof of service on other parties in the same manner and number of copies as is provided for filing of a petition for review and within ten (10) days after the date the petition for review is timely filed. A reply shall be limited to the record before the Administrative Law Judge and the petition for review.

(c) If a petition for review is filed within the time prescribed, the initial decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall be final fifteen (15) days after expiration of the time prescribed for filing a reply thereto unless the Commandant prior to expiration of the fifteen (15) days after expiration of the time prescribed for filing a reply thereto enters a written order granting the petition for review. If no petition for