UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Civil Air Regulations Amendment 3-11
Effective: May 17, 1954
Adopted: April 12, 1954

AIRPLANE AIRWORTHINESS; NORMAL, UTILITY, AND ACROBATIC CATEGORIES

FLASHING RATES FOR POSITION LIGHTS

Currently effective § 3.700 (e) of Part 3 of the Civil Air Regulations requires that, if a position light flasher is used, the position light system shall be energized at a rate of not less than 60 nor more than 100 flashes per minute with an on-off ratio between 2:1 and 1:1. This requirement became effective on January 15, 1951. Some time later, it was found that one of the most popular low-cost flashers being used with position lights could not comply with these standards. This flasher, which was widely used, was thus rendered ineligible for installation on airplanes type certificated in accordance with provisions of Part 3 in effect after January 15, 1951. Since, in general, greater conspicuity is obtained with flashing position lights than with steady lights, safety is served by encouraging the use of flashing position lights. Therefore, to determine whether the present requirements for flashing rates could be extended without impairing safety to enable the use of this low-cost flasher, an investigation was undertaken. This investigation, which included practical tests, revealed that an extension of the upper limit of the flashing rate to 120 fpm is justified, and that no noticeable deterioration in conspicuity occurs at this increased limit. It was also revealed that with the higher flash rate limit, a somewhat higher limit on the on-off ratio would be desirable because it tends to increase the apparent intensity of the light. This amendment, therefore, increases the upper limit of the flashing rate from 100 to 120 fpm, and the upper limit of the on-off ratio from 2:1 to 2.5:1.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby amends Part 3 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR, Part 3, as amended) effective May 17, 1954:

By amending § 3.700 (e) by deleting the numerals "100" and "2:1" and inserting in lieu thereof the numerals "120" and "2.5:1" respectively.

(Sec. 205 (a), 52 Stat. 984; 49 U.S.C. 425 (a). Interpret or apply secs. 601, 603, 52 Stat. 1007, 1009, as amended; 49 U.S.C. 551, 553)

By the Civil Aeronautics Board:

/s/ M. C. Mulligan

M. C. Mulligan
Secretary

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628

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