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TITLE 14 - AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

CHAPTER I - FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

[Regulatory Docket No. 326; Amendment 40-27]

PART 40 - SCHEDULED INTERSTATE AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES

Installation of Flight Recorders on Turbine-powered Airplanes

The Federal Aviation Agency published a notice of proposed rule making in the Federal Register (25 F.R. 2734) stating that it had under consideration certain amendments to Parts 40, 41, and 42 of the Civil Air Regulations to require the installation and use of flight recorders on all large (more than 12,500 pounds maximum certificated takeoff weight) turbine-powered airplanes after September 1, 1960. The proposal was circulated to the aviation industry as Draft Release 60-6, dated March 28, 1960, and comments were requested on or before May 3, 1960.

The Air Transport Association, on behalf of the scheduled air carriers, raised specific objections to the proposed effective date of September 1, 1960. The airlines stated that the date prescribed could only be met by removing airplanes from service to complete the required installations. This, they affirmed, would impose unreasonable interruptions of schedules and add undue burdens of additional expense. Further, it was stated that some air carriers may desire to equip their airplanes with a more sophisticated type of recorder capable of recording additional parameters of information which would be of value to their operations and maintenance, as well as for incident and accident investigation purposes. The currently required parameters are time, heading, airspeed, altitude and vertical acceleration.

The FAA recognizes that flight recorders capable of recording additional operations and maintenance parameters would make available information which would be most useful for incident and accident investigation and for accident prevention purposes. Furthermore, it appears that such recorded information would be used by the air carriers in developing more efficient maintenance and operations procedures and in developing new methods of establishing maintenance schedules for engine, accessory, and component overhauls.

Comments received from certain of the manufacturers of flight recorders indicated that the September 1, 1960, date would not provide them with a sufficient period of time to manufacture and deliver equipment ordered for installation on those turbine-powered airplanes now in operation which previously have not been required to be so equipped. In addition, certain manufacturers stated that more recently developed recorders capable of recording additional parameters can be supplied by late 1960, and early 1961, and confirmed that some air carriers had indicated a very definite interest in these newer types of recorders.

After consideration of all the comments received and upon further investigation thereof, the Agency has concluded that a longer period of time should be authorized for compliance with this regulation as it applies to turbine-propeller powered airplanes. Turbojet airplanes, since they are certificated for operation above 25,000 feet, are currently required to be equipped with flight recorders. The FAA recognizes that difficulties may be encountered by the air carriers in accomplishing an orderly procurement and installation program and that a brief period of relief may

be granted with respect to turbine-propeller powered airplanes without adversely affecting safety in air carrier operations. Accordingly, a compliance date of November 1, 1960, has been adopted in this final rule. Also, provision has been made in the regulation for the Director, Bureau of Flight Standards, to further extend the November 1, 1960, date for any air carrier who, prior to September 1, 1960, submits to the FAA, in writing, a request for such an extension, together with substantiating data, which shows to the satisfaction of the Director:

1. That the air carrier will be unable to comply with the November 1, 1960, date due to flight recorder procurement or installation problems and;

2. The action the air carrier has undertaken to insure that a progressive installation of the required flight recorder equipment will be completed at the earliest practicable date following November 1, 1960. In no event will the November 1, 1960, date be extended beyond May 1, 1961. This relaxation of the original proposal will provide the air carriers further opportunities to investigate the various types of recorders available and to proceed with the orderly procurement and installation of the required equipment at the earliest practicable time following the effective date of this rule.

It will be noted that neither the November 1, 1960, compliance date nor the provision for extension thereof applies to the large turbojet-powered airplanes or large nonturbine-powered airplanes certificated for

operations above 25,000 feet altitude, since they are required by currently effective regulations to be equipped with flight recorders.

Certain air carriers requested that the Fairchild F-27 airplanes be specifically exempted from the requirements of this rule in view of the geographic areas in which they are operated or in consideration of the varied local service or low altitude types of operations in which they are engaged. The FAA, in its notice of proposed rule making, explained that it was proposing this regulation specifically to encompass all of the newer types of high-speed turbine-powered airplanes, whether certificated to operate above or below 25,000 feet, since they are frequently subjected to similar atmospheric forces. The F-27 is a modern turbine-powered transport type airplane and is capable of operating at high speeds. For these reasons, the Agency is convinced that all large turbine-powered airplanes should be equipped with flight recorders. Accordingly, the rules adopted herein make no exception for the F-27 airplane.

This amendment also clarifies the Agency's intent to require continuous operation of the flight recorder from the instant the aircraft starts its takeoff roll until it has completed its landing roll at an airport. Operation of the recorder is not required during taxi operations to or from the runway.

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

In consideration of the foregoing, section 40.208 of Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 40 as amended) is hereby amended as follows to become effective August 18, 1960, except as otherwise specified:

§ 40.208 Flight Recorders

(a) An approved flight recorder which records at least time, altitude, airspeed, vertical acceleration, and heading shall be installed in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) On all airplanes of more than 12,500 pounds maximum certificated takeoff weight which are certificated for operations above 25,000 feet altitude; and

(2) On and after November 1, 1960, on all turbine-powered airplanes of more than 12,500 pounds maximum certificated takeoff weight; Provided, That, the Director, Bureau of Flight Standards, or his authorized representative, may extend the November 1, 1960, compliance date for any air carrier who, prior to September 1, 1960, submits to the Federal Aviation Agency, in writing, a request for approval for such an extension, together with substantiating data, which shows to the satisfaction of the Director, or his authorized representative:

(i) That the air carrier will be unable to comply with the November 1, 1960, date due to flight recorder procurement or installation problems, and;

(ii) The action the air carrier has undertaken to insure that a progressive installation of the required flight recorder equipment will be completed at the earliest practicable date following November 1, 1960. In no event will the November 1, 1960, compliance date be extended beyond May 1, 1961.

(b) When a flight recorder is installed it shall be operated continuously from the instant the airplane commences the takeoff roll until it has completed the landing roll at an airport.

(c) Recorded information shall be retained by the air carrier for a period of at least 60 days. For a particular flight or series of flights, the information shall be retained for a longer period if requested by an authorized representative of the Administrator or the Civil Aeronautics Board. (Secs. 303, 313(a), 601, 604, 72 Stat. 747, 752, 775, 776, 49 U.S.C., 1344, 1354, 1421, 1424).

E Alyrusada
Administrator

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