SR- 126

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Effective: June 7, 1960
Issued: June 7, 1960

SPECIAL CIVIL AIR REGULATION SR-440

OCCUPANCY OF FORWARD OBSERVER'S SEAT DURING EN ROUTE INSPECTION

[Reg. Docket No. 418; Reg. SR-440]

PART 40—SCHEDULED INTERSTATE AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES

PART 41—CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES FOR SCHEDULED AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL LIMITS OF THE UNITED STATES

PART 42—IRREGULAR AIR CARRIER AND OFF-ROUTE RULES

Occupancy of Forward Observer's Seat During En Route Inspection

Sections 40.22, 41.5 and 42.8 of the Civil Air Regulations contain provisions which make it mandatory to permit an authorized representative of the Federal Aviation Agency at any time and place to make inspections or examinations to determine an air carrier's compliance with the requirements of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, and the Civil Air Regulations. Similar inspection provisions have existed without interruption since the regulation of civil aviation by the former Aeronautics Branch, U.S. Department of Commerce, which provided in its regulations that the "owner, operating agency, or pilot" was required to give Federal inspectors "free and uninterrupted access to the aircraft" while conducting government inspections.

Historically, the required government inspections of air carrier operations known as en route inspections have been conducted from a seat or station on the flight deck of the aircraft which permits the inspector to observe the operation of the aircraft by the flight crew members at their respective stations. This was done for the obvious reason that an inspection conducted from a location which would not permit observation of the operation would be essentially futile.

As a result of this well established and accepted practice, it has been unnecessary for the Federal Aviation Agency or its predecessor agencies to further prescribe by regulatory action the authority of the inspector to occupy such seat in the conduct of his required en route inspections.

With the introduction into service of new type turbo jet airplanes two observers' seats were made available for use on the flight deck of such airplanes, in addition to those required for the minimum flight crew. In some of these airplanes one of these seats, the forward observer's seat, is located directly behind that occupied by the pilot-in-command and permits FAA inspectors while occupying such seat to observe the operation of the airplane by the flight crew members. The location of the second observer's seat, however, does not permit such observation.

By agreement entered into between the Air Line Pilots Association and certain air carriers, an additional pilot flight crew member has been assigned to assist the pilot-in-command in the operation of turbo jet airplanes. This agreement was entered into notwithstanding the fact that such airplanes were certificated for safe operation by the FAA with a minimum flight crew of two pilots and a flight engineer. Moreover, these airplanes are still being operated safely with such a flight crew complement by all of the other air carriers not parties to such an agreement. The Air Line Pilots Association has now advised the FAA that under the provisions of this agreement it has decided that the forward observer's seat must be occupied by the additional pilot flight crew member or the airplane will not be operated by its members—even during en route inspections. In support of this decision, resolutions have been entered into by the Master Executive Council of the pilots of the air carriers which are parties to such agreements directing its members not to operate turbo jet airplanes for en route inspections, when the forward observer's seat is occupied by the FAA inspector instead of the additional third pilot.

Pursuant to such agreements and resolutions, the pilots of one of the air carriers have now refused to operate turbo jet airplanes which were scheduled for en route inspections by authorized representatives of the Administrator occupying the forward observers' seats. Such overt acts by the pilots involved have created a situation which requires immediate corrective action. The statutory safety responsibilities of the Federal Aviation Agency can not be derogated by the provisions of agreements between the pilots and the air carriers, or by unilateral resolutions of the pilots and their associations purporting to implement such agreements. In the exercise and performance of their statutory responsibilities, FAA inspectors conducting en route inspections must be provided with a seat in the cockpit from which they are able properly to discharge such responsibilities. This requirement is both obvious and fundamental for the conduct of inspections which will assure the highest degree of safety in the fast growing system of air transportation.

Because of the emergency nature of the situation, I find that compliance with the notice, procedures and effective date provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act would be impracticable and impede the due and timely execution of the functions of the Federal Aviation Agency.

In consideration of the foregoing this emergency Special Civil Air Regulation is adopted to make clear that the authorized representatives of the Administrator must be given full and uninterrupted access to the aircraft, including a suitable seat on the flight deck, as determined by the Administrator, for the proper performance and discharge of their en route inspection duties. This regulation is declaratory of a long standing practice and makes explicit, with respect to certain aircraft, the location of such seat.

The following Special Civil Air Regulation is hereby adopted to become effective immediately.

Each air carrier shall make available a seat on the flight deck of each aircraft used by it in air transportation for occupancy by an authorized representative of the Administrator while conducting en route inspections. The location and equipment of such seat, in respect to its suitability for use in conducting en route inspections, shall be as required by the Administrator or his representative. In all Boeing 707's, Douglas DC-8's, and other types of aircraft having more than one observer's seat in excess of that required for the crew complement for which the aircraft was certificated, the forward observer's seat shall be made available to such representative.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 604 and 609; 72 Stat. 752, 775, 778, 779; 49 U.S.C. 1354(a), 1421, 1424, 1429)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 7, 1960.

ARVIN O. BASNIGHT,
Acting Administrator.

[F.R. Doc. 60-5299; Filed, June 8, 1960; 9:56 a.m.]

As published in the Federal Register (25 F.R. 5146) on June 9, 1960

GPO 895833-8