SPECIAL CIVIL AIR REGULATION NO. SR–402

Effective: June 2, 1954
Adopted: March 4, 1954

Certification and Operation Rules For Star Route Air Carriers

When the nature of the terrain in particular sections of the country is such as to make surface transportation impracticable, the Postmaster General has authority under the Experimental Air Mail Act of 1938, as amended, to award contracts for the transportation of all classes of mail by airplane. The routes for which these contracts are awarded are known as "star routes" and are generally in isolated areas and of comparatively short distance. In a few instances these routes are located completely within a state.

An "air carrier" under the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, as amended, is defined as anyone who engages in air transportation. "Air transportation" is defined as interstate, overseas, and foreign air transportation or the transportation of mail by aircraft. Thus, a "star route" operator, including one otherwise engaged exclusively in intrastate air transportation, is an "air carrier" within the meaning of the Act.

While "star route" air carriers are exempted from certain areas of the Board's economic jurisdiction, they are subject to the Board's safety jurisdiction over air carriers. However, presently effective Parts 40 and 42 of the Civil Air Regulations apply to air carriers when engaged in interstate air transportation, but are not applicable to "star route" air carriers who are engaged only in intrastate transportation of mail. In view of the fact that the Civil Aeronautics Act requires each air carrier to have an air carrier operating certificate, it is necessary to make provision in the Civil Air Regulations for the issuance of this certificate to these "star route" air carriers.

This Special Civil Air Regulation provides air carrier certification and operation rules for all carriers engaged in carriage of mail pursuant to "star route" contracts. In view of the fact that these air carriers generally operate small planes and carry out relatively small operations, it appears desirable that they be certificated and comply with the provisions of Part 42 which are also applicable to air taxi operators. Thus, under this regulation, these air carriers are required to be certificated in accordance with Part 42 and to comply with the provisions of Part 42. Since it will require a certain amount of time to accomplish this certification, this regulation will become effective in ninety days.

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

In consideration of the foregoing, the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby makes and promulgates the following Special Civil Air Regulation, effective June 2, 1954:

Persons engaged in the carriage of mail by aircraft pursuant to "star route" contracts awarded under the Experimental Air Mail Act of 1938, as amended, shall, for such operations, be certificated in accordance with and comply with the provisions of Part 42 of the Civil Air Regulations.