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

Civil Air Regulations Amendment 6-6
Effective: December 18, 1962
Issued: December 18, 1962

[Reg. Docket No. 1530; Amdt. 6-6]

PART 6—ROTORCRAFT AIRWORTHINESS; NORMAL CATEGORY

Master Switch Requirements

The currently effective provisions of § 6.623 require that a master switch arrangement be provided to permit expeditious disconnection of all electric power sources from all load circuits and that the point of disconnection be adjacent to the power source. An identical provision is set forth in § 3.688 of Part 3 for airplanes in the normal, utility, and acrobatic categories.

In a separate rule making action, initiated in response to a petition by interested persons, the provisions of § 3.688 have been amended to permit connection of load circuits in such manner that they remain energized after the master switch is opened if such circuits are protected by circuit protective devices, rated at five amperes or less, located adjacent to the electric power source. This amendment of § 3.688 was based on the determination by the Agency that load circuits wired directly to electric power sources through low-rated protective devices are not only less costly and more reliable than switch-relay circuits designed to comply with the previously effective rule, but are no more likely to ignite fuel in a crash. Further, tests witnessed by Agency representatives, coupled with the satisfactory safety record established by aircraft which were fitted with auxiliary circuits wired around the master switch, indicate that electrical ignition of fuel during a crash is less probable than previously believed.

Since the master switch provisions are needed for Part 6 rotorcraft for the same reasons they are needed for Part 3 airplanes, a similar amendment to Part 6 is considered to be appropriate. Accordingly, § 6.623 is being amended to permit connection of load circuits in such manner that they remain energized after the master switch is opened if such circuits are protected by circuit protective devices, rated at five amperes or less, located adjacent to the electric power source.

Since this regulation provides relief from the provisions of the previous regulation, and imposes no additional burden upon any persons, compliance with the notice and public procedure provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act is unnecessary, and good cause exists for making this regulation effective immediately.

In consideration of the foregoing, § 6.623 of Part 6 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 6, as amended) is hereby amended, to read as follows, effective December 18, 1962:

§ 6.623 Master switch arrangement.

A master switch arrangement shall be provided to permit expeditious disconnection of all electric power sources from the main bus. The point of disconnection shall be adjacent to the power sources. Load circuits may be connected in such manner that they remain energized after the master switch is opened if they are protected by circuit protective devices, rated at five amperes or less, located adjacent to the electric power source.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 603; 72 Stat. 752, 775, 776; 49 U.S.C. 1354, 1421, 1423)

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N. E. HALABY,
Administrator.

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