Re: CAM-46

TITLE 14 - AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

CHAPTER I - FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

[Regulatory Docket No. 904; Amendment 46-5_7]

PART 46 - SCHEDULED AIR CARRIER HELICOPTER CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES

Illumination of Passenger Emergency Exit Markings

The Federal Aviation Agency published as a notice of proposed rule making (26 F.R. 9241) and circulated as Civil Air Regulations Draft Release No. 61-20 dated September 21, 1961, a proposal to amend Parts 40, 41, 42, and 46 of the Civil Air Regulations to require the illumination of passenger emergency exit markings during all takeoffs and landings, day and night.

In proposing these amendments, the Agency considered several recent accidents and incidents where illumination of the emergency exits during daylight hours may have resulted in a more effective evacuation of the passengers and crew. The Civil Air Regulations as originally adopted did not require daytime use of the emergency exit lighting system. It is now considered that this additional lighting during daylight hours is necessary to provide maximum safety where the evacuation of large numbers of passengers is concerned.

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 general, all comments received from interested persons as a result of the Agency's notice of proposed rule making were favorable to the proposal.

In consideration of the foregoing, § 46.173(d) of Part 46 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 46, as amended) is hereby amended to read as follows, effective [illegible] :

46.173 Emergency equipment for all operations.

* * * * *

(d) Interior emergency exit markings. All emergency exits, their means of access, and their means of opening shall be marked conspicuously. In all passenger-carrying helicopters, a source or sources of light with an energy supply independent of the main lighting system shall be installed to illuminate all passenger emergency exit markings. Such lights shall be designed to function automatically in a crash landing and to continue to function thereafter, and shall be operable manually, or shall be designed only for manual operation and also to continue to function following a crash landing. When such lights require arming of the system to function automatically, the system shall be armed prior to each takeoff and landing. When such lights require manual operation to function, they shall be turned on prior to each takeoff and landing. The identity and location of emergency exits shall be recognizable from a distance equal to the width of the cabin. The location of the emergency exit operating handle and the instructions for opening shall be marked on or adjacent to the emergency exit and shall be readable from a distance of 30 inches by a person with normal eyesight.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 604, 605; 72 Stat. 752, 775, 778; 49 U.S.C. 1354(a), 1421, 1424, 1425)

Administrator

Issued in Washington, D. C., on [illegible].