U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

James L. Jensen, Director Flight Operations
Air Center Helicopters, Inc.
150 Aviation Way, Hangar 17N
Fort Worth, Texas 76106-2757

RE: Interpretation of 14 CFR 135.183(c) and (d)

Dear Mr. Jensen:

This responds to your October 19, 2006, letter in which you ask "…does a multiengine helicopter that complies with paragraph (c) not then have to comply with paragraph (d)?"

The rule at issue is:

PART 135--OPERATING REQUIREMENTS: COMMUTER AND ON DEMAND OPERATIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PERSONS ON BOARD SUCH AIRCRAFT

Subpart C--Aircraft and Equipment

Sec. 135.183 Performance requirements: Land aircraft operated over water.

No person may operate a land aircraft carrying passengers over water unless--

(a) It is operated at an altitude that allows it to reach land in the case of engine failure;

(b) It is necessary for takeoff or landing;

(c) It is a multiengine aircraft operated at a weight that will allow it to climb, with the critical engine inoperative, at least 50 feet a minute, at an altitude of 1,000 feet above the surface; or

(d) It is a helicopter equipped with helicopter flotation devices.

Currently, if an operator uses a multiengine helicopter having the minimum performance characteristics stated in section 135.183(c) above it fulfills the requirements of the rule. The multiengine helicopter does not also have to be equipped with "helicopter flotation devices" as stated in section (d).

This response was prepared by Bruce Glendening, Attorney in the Regulations Division of the Office of the Chief Counsel and has been coordinated with the Air Transportation Division of Flight Standards Service. If you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact us at your convenience at (202) 267-3073.

Sincerely,

Rebecca MacPherson
Asst. Chief Counsel, Regulations Division (AGC-200)