U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 8000.317

Effective Date:
2/24/06

Cancellation Date:
2/24/07

SUBJ: OPERATOR TRAINING PROVIDED BY PART 142 TRAINING CENTERS FOR HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE. This notice provides guidance for Training Center Program Managers (TCPM) on the review, approval, and surveillance of training programs used by helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) operators. Specifically, this notice identifies recent efforts by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the HEMS community to reduce the number of HEMS accidents.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This notice is distributed to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; to the Flight Standards District Offices; and to the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. This notice is also distributed electronically to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters and to all regional Flight Standards divisions and district offices. This information is also available on the FAA's Web site at http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/examiners_inspectors/8000/.

3. BACKGROUND.

a. Introduction. HEMS providers operate in a demanding environment. They provide an invaluable service to the nation by providing crucial, safe, and efficient transportation of critically ill and injured patients to tertiary medical care facilities. While the contribution of HEMS is profound as a component of the nation's medical infrastructure, from an operational standpoint, it is a commercial aviation activity performed by air carrier operators. It therefore must be conducted with the highest level of safety. To meet this requirement, pilots and other aircrew must be effectively trained.

b. Operator Responsibility.

(1) Responsibility for the development and execution of training programs always rests with the operator. HEMS operators holding an air carrier certificate under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135 have a regulatory responsibility for their training program under the authority of their operations specifications (OpSpecs) issued under 14 CFR part 119, even when they contract with a 14 CFR part 142 training center to conduct all or a portion of the aircraft-specific training approved by the FAA for that HEMS operator.

(2) Several HEMS operators are public agencies operating public use aircraft. While these operators are not required to have FAA-approved air carrier or operator training programs,

many use training centers certificated under part 142 to conduct all or a portion of their pilot training. These courses may be aircraft specific, as well as generic job-function related courses.

c. Recent Efforts. Work by FAA and the HEMS community have resulted in substantial changes to training and operational requirements. These requirements have been expressed in several documents. Specifically, the following documents have been issued by the FAA in calendar years 2005 and 2006:

(1) AC 00-64, Air Medical Resource Management.

(2) HBAT 06-01, Helicopter Emergency Medical Services; OpSpec A021/A002 Revisions.

(3) HBAT 06-02, Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) Loss of Control (LOC) and Controlled Flight into Terrain (CFIT) Accident Avoidance Programs.

(4) Notice 8000.293, Helicopter Emergency Medical Services Operations.

(5) Notice 8000.301, Operational Risk Assessment Programs for Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

(6) Notice N 8000.307, Special Emphasis Inspection Program for Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

4. ACTION.

a. TCPMs assigned responsibility for training centers(s) which provide training for civil HEMS pilots under a part 135 HEMS operator's approved training program, or provide training to pilots of public use HEMS aircraft, shall distribute this notice, and the documents cited in paragraph 3c to the training center(s) in question.

b. When a training center proposes a new course, or a change to an existing course used by civil or public HEMS operators, the operator and TCPM should evaluate the course in light of the concepts contained within the documents cited in paragraph 3c, with particular emphasis on:

(1) Risk assessment and management, including collaborative decisionmaking and resource management,

(2) Avoidance of loss of control (LOC) accidents, including avoidance of inadvertent IMC encounters, and recovery from such encounters, including emergency IFR recovery,

(3) Avoidance of controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) accidents, including the integration of tactical and strategic avoidance CFIT avoidance techniques and procedures, and

(4) Knowledge of factors which affect seeing conditions, including night lighting and the effects of different levels of lunar illumination, and flat light conditions.

5. TRACKING. Document the conveyance of the information contained in this notice for each part 142 training center that conducts training for civil or public HEMS operators.

a. Use Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) code "1380".

b. Enter "N8000317" in the "National Use" field (without the quotes).

6. DISPOSITION. This notice will not be incorporated into Order 8400.10, Air Transportation Operations Inspector's Handbook. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Commuter, On Demand, and Training Center Branch, AFS-250, at (202) 267-8166.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
CAROL E. GILES (for)

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