NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.329

National Policy

Effective Date:
10/8/15

Cancellation Date:
10/8/16

SUBJ: OpSpec B049, Operations in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area

1. Purpose of this Notice. This notice provides revised guidance to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) and principal operations inspectors (POI) assigned to operators conducting air tour operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 93 subpart U. This revised guidance permits operators to apply Quiet Technology (QT) seasonal relief and amends Operations Specification (OpSpec) B049, Operations in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area, for operators conducting air tour operations under 14 CFR parts 121, 121/135, and 135.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is FAA CHDOs and POIs assigned to operators conducting air tour operations under parts 121, 121/135, and 135 in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area (GCNP-SFRA); specifically, those operating QT aircraft in the Dragon/Zuni Corridor. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) divisions and branches in the regions and at headquarters (HQ).

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at http://fsims.avs.faa.gov. Operators can find this notice on the FAA's Web site at http://fsims.faa.gov. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. The FAA, in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), has agreed to permit all operators conducting air tours in the GCNP-SFRA to apply QT seasonal relief in the first quarter of each calendar-year. This agreement was published in the Federal Register (FR) on April 22, 2015 (80 FR 22606-22611).

5. Discussion.

a. General. Commercial air tour operations conducted within the Dragon/Zuni Corridor of the GCNP-SFRA with QT aircraft during the months of January, February, and March do not need to be counted against the operator's authorized allocation. A commercial air tour flight operation conducted in non-QT aircraft during the first quarter would still require the use of an allocation. Additional reporting is not required; however, the registration number of the aircraft

and the make, model, and series (M/M/S) must be accurately recorded in the standard air tour activity quarterly report. The basis of the reporting requirement is part 93 subpart U, § 93.325.

b. Timeframe. The Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) has revised OpSpec B049 (as depicted in Appendix A of this notice) and will revise the associated FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), guidance material to reflect this change. This notice serves to advise operators of this seasonal relief. The FAA anticipates publication of the revised guidance material during the first quarter of 2016.

6. Action. POIs must amend OpSpec B049, replacing the existing version with the new version available on the Web-based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS) and depicted in Appendix A of this notice. POIs should provide this notice to the operators for whom they are responsible, alerting them to updated operating and reporting procedures. POIs are also reminded that any time an air tour authorization is issued or modified, the issuing Flight Standards District Office (FSDO)/CHDO must provide a signed copy of this authorization to the FAA AWP-1SP Air Tour Program Office within 5 business days of issuance. This action is mandatory, with a compliance date of 30 days from the HQ Control Date in WebOPSS.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Air Transportation Division's Part 135 Air Carrier Operations Branch (AFS-250) at 202-267-8166.



John Barbagallo

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Appendix A. Sample OpSpec B049, Operations in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area: 14 CFR Parts 121, 121/135, and 135

a. The certificate holder is authorized to conduct Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 and/or 135 commercial special flight rules area (SFRA) operations in the Grand Canyon National Park SFRA (GCNP-SFRA) in accordance with SFAR 50-2, 14 CFR part 93 subpart U, 14 CFR part 91, as applicable, and the provisions of this operations specification.

b. Limitations and Provisions. The certificate holder is authorized to conduct operations in the GCNP-SFRA in accordance with the following limitations and provisions:

(1) The certificate holder is in compliance with the requirements of FAA Order LAS FSDO 1380.2A, Las Vegas FSDO Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area (GCNP-SFRA) Procedures Manual.

(2) The certificate holder is authorized no more than a total of _____ commercial air tours in the GCNP-SFRA during each calendar-year. Of these commercial air tours, _____ may be conducted in the Dragon and/or Zuni Point corridors. All commercial air tours must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of part 93, § 93.319.

(a) Quiet Technology (QT) Seasonal Relief. The maximum authorized number of commercial air tours (allocation) conducted in the Dragon and/or Zuni Point corridors of the GCNP-SFRA may be exceeded by the number of commercial air tours conducted with authorized QT aircraft within the Dragon and/or Zuni Point corridors between the dates of January 1 through March 31, inclusive.

(3) The certificate holder is authorized to conduct the operations specified in its contract with the Hualapai Indian Nation and is specifically approved for _____ operations that may transit the GCNP-SFRA under the exception of § 93.319(f).

c. Before conducting any operations authorized by this operations specification, the flightcrew must be qualified in accordance with the certificate holder’s approved training program for the procedures being used.

d. This operations specification is referenced in operations specification paragraph B050, as appropriate.