

revised advisory material concurrent with the proposed rule.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You should send your comments to the Federal Aviation Administration, Transport Airplane Directorate, Attention: Jeff Gardlin, Airframe/Cabin Safety Branch, ANM-115, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. You may also fax your comments to 425-227-1149, or you may send your comments electronically to: jeff.gardlin@faa.gov. You may review all comments received at the above address between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Gardlin at the above address, telephone 425-227-2136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

How Do I Obtain a Copy of the Proposed Advisory Circular?

You may obtain an electronic copy of the proposed advisory circular at the following Internet address: <http://www.airweb.faa.gov/DraftAC>. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may request a copy by contacting Jeff Gardlin at the address or phone number listed earlier in this announcement.

How Do I submit Comments on the Proposed Advisory Circular?

You are invited to comment on the proposed AC by submitting written comments, data, or views. You must identify the AC by title and submit your comments in duplicate to the address specified above. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date for comments before issuing the final AC.

Discussion

By separate notice published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 1932, January 14, 2003), the FAA proposes to amend the design standards for fuselage doors on transport category airplanes. Currently, most of the relevant standards are found in title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 25.783, "Doors." The proposed revision would improve door integrity by providing design standards that would ensure that doors remain secure under all circumstances that service experience has shown can occur.

We prepared a proposed revision to AC 25.783-1, "Fuselage Doors and Hatches," to provide guidance on one means of showing compliance with the proposed revised requirements of § 25.783. The means of compliance

described in the proposed AC provides guidance to supplement the engineering and operational judgment that must form the basis for any compliance findings on the structural and functional safety standards for doors and their operating systems.

Harmonization of Standards and Guidance

The proposed AC is based on recommendations submitted to the FAA by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC). The FAA tasked ARAC (63 FR 50954, September 23, 1998) to provide advice and recommendations on "harmonizing" certain sections of part 25 with the counterpart standards contained in Joint Aviation Requirements (JAR) 25. The goal of "harmonization tasks," such as this, is to ensure that:

- Where possible, standards and guidance do not require domestic and foreign parties to manufacture or operate to different standards for each country involved; and
- The standards and guidance adopted are mutually acceptable to the FAA and the foreign aviation authorities.

The guidance contained in the proposed AC has been harmonized with that of the JAA, and provides a method of compliance that has been found acceptable to both the FAA and JAA.

The FAA is making the AC available as it was recommended from the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee. However, certain events subsequent to the recommendation being received by the FAA have raised concerns regarding the guidance contained in paragraph 9b(2) with regard to differential pressures under which doors can be opened. Therefore, the FAA specifically invites comments on this aspect of the guidance.

Issuance of the revised AC is contingent on final adoption of the proposed changes to the relevant regulations.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 3, 2003.

Ali Bahrami,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Proposed Revised Advisory Circular (AC) 121.445-1E, Pilot-in-Command Qualifications for Special Airports, 14 CFR Part 121, Section 121.445

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed revised AC and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The proposed AC provides information for all title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 119 certificate holders who conduct operations under 14 CFR part 121 concerning those airports where the Administrator has determined that special qualifications are required of pilots-in-command as provided in part 121, section 121.445. Additionally, this AC provides a suggested format for certificate holders, their pilots, and other persons to use to assess whether an individual airport should be designated as a special qualification airport.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Federal Aviation Administration, Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-220, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

Comments Invited: A copy of the proposed AC can be found at the following Web address: <http://www.opspecs.com/ops/default.htm>. Additionally, a paper copy of the draft AC can be obtained by contacting AFS-220 at the above address. Comments are invited on all aspects of the proposed AC. Commenters should note that there are several new airports added to this AC (as indicated by the effective date) and one airport removed (Marquette, Michigan). When submitting comments to AFS-220, commenters must identify file number AC 121.445-1E. Comments may be inspected at the above address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. e.s.t. on weekdays, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Penland, AFS-220, at the above address or telephone at (202) 267-8166.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 4, 2003.

Louis C. Cusimano,

Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service.

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