

Conditions in Iraq remain hazardous for Americans. Iraq continues to refuse to comply with UN Security Council resolutions to fully declare and destroy its weapons of mass destruction and missiles while mounting a virulent public campaign in which the United States is blamed for maintenance of U.N. sanctions. The United Nations has withdrawn all U.S. citizen UN humanitarian workers from Iraq because of the Government of Iraq's stated inability to protect their safety. Iraq regularly fires anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at U.S. and coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, and regularly illuminates U.S. and coalition aircraft with target-acquisition radar.

U.S. citizens and other foreigners working inside Kuwait near the Iraqi borders have been detained by Iraqi authorities in the past and sentenced to lengthy jail terms for alleged illegal entry into the country. Although our interests are represented by the Embassy of Poland in Baghdad, its ability to obtain consular access to detained U.S. citizens and to perform emergency services is constrained by Iraqi unwillingness to cooperate. In light of these circumstances and pursuant to the authorities set forth in 22 U.S.C 211 a, Executive Order 11295, and 22 CFR 51.73, I have determined that Iraq continues to be a country "where there is imminent danger to the public health or the physical safety of United States travelers".

Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for use in, travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. The restriction shall not apply to American citizens residing in Iraq on February 1, 1991, who continue to reside there, or to American professional reporters or journalists on assignment there.

The Public Notice shall be effective from the date it is published in the **Federal Register** and shall expire at midnight on the same date in the year 2002, unless sooner extended or revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: February 28, 2001.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 01-5890 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Determinations Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative has determined that Madagascar has adopted an effective visa system and related procedures to prevent unlawful transshipment and the use of counterfeit documents in connection with shipments of textile and apparel articles and has implemented and follows, or is making substantial progress toward implementing and following, the customs procedures required by the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Therefore, imports of eligible products from Madagascar qualify for the enhanced trade benefits provided under the AGOA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 6, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Roth, Deputy Director for African Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) (AGOA) provides preferential tariff treatment for imports of certain textile and apparel products of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. The textile and apparel trade benefits under the AGOA are available to imports of eligible products from countries that the President designates as "beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries," provided that these countries (1) have adopted an effective visa system and related procedures to prevent unlawful transshipment and the use of counterfeit documents, and (2) have implemented and follow, or are making substantial progress toward implementing and following, certain customs procedures that assist the Customs Service in verifying the origin of the products.

In Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000, the President designated 34 countries, including Madagascar, as "beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries." Proclamation 7350 delegated to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) the authority to determine whether these countries have met the two requirements described above. The President directed the USTR to announce any such determinations in the **Federal Register** and to implement them through modifications of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the

United States (HTS). Based on actions that Madagascar has taken, I have determined that Madagascar has satisfied these two requirements.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in the USTR by Proclamation 7350, U.S. note 7(a) to subchapter II of chapter 98 of the HTS and U.S. note 1 to subchapter XIX of chapter 98 of the HTS are each modified by inserting "Madagascar" in alphabetical sequence in the list of countries. The foregoing modifications to the HTS are effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the effective date of this notice. Importers claiming preferential tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries of textile and apparel articles should ensure that those entries meet the applicable visa requirements. *See Visa Requirements Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act*, 66 FR 7837 (2001).

Robert B. Zoellick,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 01-5872 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed During the Week Ending February 16, 2001

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. sections 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days after the filing of the application.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8896.

Date Filed: February 12, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC1 0179 dated February 6, 2001, Mail Vote 106—Resolution 010q, TC1 Within South America Special Passenger, Amending Resolution, Intended effective date: March 1, 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8909.

Date Filed: February 14, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC COMP 0775 dated February 13, 2001, Mail Vote 107 Resolution 010h, Special Passenger Currency Conversion Resolution—euro, Intended effective date: March 1, 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8923.

Date Filed: February 15, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS-ME 0123 dated February 9, 2001, TC12 North Atlantic-

Israel Expedited Resolutions r1-r7,
Intended effective date: March 15, 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8924.

Date Filed: February 15, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS-ME 0122 dated February 9, 2001, North Atlantic-Middle East Expedited Resolution 002w,

Intended effective date: March 15, 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8926.

Date Filed: February 16, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC12 NMS-ME 0129 and PTC12 NMS-ME 0130 dated February 16, 2001, Mail Votes 108 and 109—Resolutions 010r and 010s (Amending), TC12 Mid/South Atlantic Special Amending Resolutions from Kuwait, Yemen, Intended effective date: March 15, 2001.

Docket Number: OST-2001-8931.

Date Filed: February 16, 2001.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PAC/Reso/410 dated December 21, 2000, Mail Vote A101 (Reso 850), Intended effective date: January 31, 2001.

Dorothy Y. Beard,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 01-5748 Filed 3-8-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Policy Statement Number ACE-00-23.683-01A]

Proposed Issuance of Policy Memorandum, Discussion of Compliance Methods in Advisory Circular (AC) 23-17, Systems and Equipment Guide for Certification of Part 23 Airplanes, Paragraph 23.683, Operation Tests

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of policy statement; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document announces a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed general statement of policy applicable to the type certification of normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes. This document advises the public, in particular manufacturers of normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes, of more information related to the compliance methods in Advisory Circular (AC) 23-17, Systems and Equipment Guide for Certification of

Part 23 Airplanes, Paragraph 23.683, Operation Tests. This notice is to tell the public about proposed FAA policy and give all interested people an opportunity to present their views on the proposed policy statement.

DATES: Comments sent must be received by April 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on this policy statement to the individual identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

—Comments. Pat Nininger, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, ACE-111, Room 301, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone (816) 329-4129; fax 816-329-4090; e-mail <Pat.Nininger@faa.gov>.

—Technical. Lester Cheng, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, ACE-111, Room 301, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone (816) 329-4120; fax 816-329-4090; e-mail: <Lester.Cheng@faa.gov>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

How Do I Comment on This Proposed Policy?

We invite your comments on this proposed policy statement. Send written data, views, or arguments. Mark your comments, "Comments to policy statement ACE-00-23.683-01A," and send two copies to the above address. We will consider all comments received by the closing date. We may change the proposals contained in this notice because of the comments received.

You may also send comments using the Internet to the following address: <Pat.Nininger@faa.gov>. Comments sent by fax or the Internet must contain, "Comments to policy statement ACE-00-23.683-01A" in the subject line. You do not need to send two copies. Writers should format in Microsoft Word 97 or ASCII any file attachments that are sent by the Internet.

Send comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a comment about proof of structure and a comment about load static tests as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change you are requesting to the proposed policy memorandum.
- Include justification (for example, reasons or data) for each request.

Background

What Events Have Caused This Proposed Policy?

After reviewing the compliance methods in Advisory Circular (AC) 23-17, the directorate determined there was additional information related to the compliance methods in AC 23-17, paragraph 23.683, that might be beneficial. A proposed policy memorandum, ACE-00-23.683-01, was published on January 12, 2000 (65 FR 1941) for review and comment. We received several comments.

Nevertheless, after the closing date of comments (February 11, 2000), the FAA received a few requests to extend the comment period and accept more comments on the proposed policy statement. On April 25, 2000, AC 23-17 incorporated paragraph 23.683 and cancelled AC 23.683-1.

After publishing the proposed policy, we learned it would be beneficial to clarify that this modified method, which accounts for the deformation effects of adjacent structure through testing, may not be necessary for some designs. In some cases, analysis may be used to account for these effects. This clarification is inserted under the "General Statement of Policy" of the policy memo ACE-00-23.683-01.

This notice announces the revised policy memo and gives all interested persons the opportunity to present their comments.

What Is the General Effect of This Proposed Policy?

The FAA is presenting this information as a set of guidelines suitable for use. However, this document is not intended to establish a binding norm; it does not constitute a new regulation and the FAA would not apply or rely on it as a regulation. The FAA Aircraft Certification Offices (ACO's) that certify normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes should try to follow this policy when appropriate.

Applicants should expect the certificating officials to consider this policy when making findings of compliance relevant to new certificate actions. Applicants also may consider the material contained in this proposed policy statement as a supplement to that contained in AC 23-17, paragraph 23.683, when developing a means of compliance with the relevant certification standards.

As with all advisory material, this statement of policy identifies one method, but not the only method, of compliance.