Federal Aviation Administration, DOT

§ 21.93 Classification of changes in type design.

(a) In addition to changes in type design specified in paragraph (b) of this section, changes in type design are classified as minor and major. A “minor change” is one that has no appreciable effect on the weight, balance, structural strength, reliability, operational characteristics, or other characteristics affecting the airworthiness of the product. All other changes are “major changes” (except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section).

(b) For the purpose of complying with Part 36 of this chapter, and except as provided in paragraphs (b)(2), (b)(3), and (b)(4) of this section, any voluntary change in the type design of an aircraft that may increase the noise levels of that aircraft is an “acoustical change” (in addition to being a minor or major change as classified in paragraph (a) of this section) for the following aircraft:

(1) Transport category large airplanes.

(2) Jet (Turbojet powered) airplanes (regardless of category). For airplanes to which this paragraph applies, “acoustical changes” do not include changes in type design that are limited to one of the following—

(i) Gear down flight with one or more retractable landing gear down during the entire flight, or

(ii) Spare engine and nacelle carriage external to the skin of the airplane (and return of the pylon or other external mount), or

(iii) Time-limited engine and/or nacelle changes, where the change in type design specifies that the airplane may not be operated for a period of more than 90 days unless compliance with the applicable acoustical change provisions of Part 36 of this chapter is shown for that change in type design.

(3) Propeller driven commuter category and small airplanes in the primary, normal, utility, aerobatic, transport, and restricted categories, except for airplanes that are:

(1) Designated for “agricultural aircraft operations” (as defined in §137.3 of
§ 21.95 Approval of minor changes in type design.

Minor changes in a type design may be approved under a method acceptable to the Administrator before submitting to the Administrator any substantiating or descriptive data.

§ 21.97 Approval of major changes in type design.

(a) In the case of a major change in type design, the applicant must submit substantiating data and necessary descriptive data for inclusion in the type design.

(b) Approval of a major change in the type design of an aircraft engine is limited to the specific engine configuration upon which the change is made unless the applicant identifies in the necessary descriptive data for inclusion in the type design the other configurations of the same engine type for which approval is requested and shows that the change is compatible with the other configurations.


Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21–92, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.97(a) was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9065, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.97 Approval of major changes in type design.

(a) An applicant for approval of a major change in type design must:

(1) Provide substantiating data and necessary descriptive data for inclusion in the type design;

(2) Show that the changed product complies with the applicable requirements of