§ 25.1503 Operating Limitations


When airspeed limitations are a function of weight, weight distribution, altitude, or Mach number, limitations corresponding to each critical combination of these factors must be established.

§ 25.1505 Maximum operating limit speed.

The maximum operating limit speed (VMO/MMO airspeed or Mach Number, whichever is critical at a particular altitude) is a speed that may not be deliberately exceeded in any regime of flight (climb, cruise, or descent), unless a higher speed is authorized for flight test or pilot training operations. VMO/MMO must be established so that it is not greater than the design cruising speed VC and so that it is sufficiently below VD/MD or VDF/MDF, to make it highly improbable that the latter speeds will be inadvertently exceeded in operations. The speed margin between VMO/MMO and VD/MD or VDF/MDF may not be less than that determined under §25.335(b) or found necessary during the flight tests conducted under §25.253.

§ 25.1507 Maneuvering speed.

The maneuvering speed must be established so that it does not exceed the design maneuvering speed VA determined under §25.335(c).

§ 25.1511 Flap extended speed.

The established flap extended speed VKE must be established so that it does not exceed the design flap speed VF chosen under §§25.335(e) and 25.345, for the corresponding flap positions and engine powers.

§ 25.1513 Minimum control speed.

The minimum control speed VMC determined under §25.149 must be established as an operating limitation.

§ 25.1515 Landing gear speeds.

(a) The established landing gear operating speed or speeds, VLO, may not exceed the speed at which it is safe both to extend and to retract the landing gear, as determined under §25.729 or by flight characteristics. If the extension speed is not the same as the retraction speed, the two speeds must be designated as VLO(EXT) and VLO(RET), respectively.

(b) The established landing gear extended speed VLE may not exceed the speed at which it is safe to fly with the landing gear secured in the fully extended position, and that determined under §25.729.

§ 25.1516 Other speed limitations.

Any other limitation associated with speed must be established.

§ 25.1517 Rough air speed, VRA.

A rough air speed, VRA, for use as the recommended turbulence penetration airspeed in §25.1585(a)(8), must be established, which—

(1) Is not greater than the design airspeed for maximum gust intensity, selected for VMO; and

(2) Is not less than the minimum value of VRA specified in §25.335(d); and

(3) Is sufficiently less than VMO to ensure that likely speed variation during rough air encounters will not cause the overspeed warning to operate too frequently. In the absence of a rational investigation substantiating the use of other values, VRA must be less than VMO—35 knots (TAS).

§ 25.1519 Weight, center of gravity, and weight distribution.

The airplane weight, center of gravity, and weight distribution limitations determined under §§25.23 through 25.27 must be established as operating limitations.

§ 25.1521 Powerplant limitations.

(a) General. The powerplant limitations prescribed in this section must be established so that they do not exceed the corresponding limits for which the engines or propellers are type certified and do not exceed the values on which compliance with any other requirement of this part is based.