

### Flight Data Recorder Systems

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request comments on a proposed Technical Standard Order pertaining to flight data recorder systems. The proposed TSO prescribed the minimum performance standards that flight data recorder systems must meet to be identified with the marking "TSO-C124a."

**DATES:** Comments must identify the TSO file number and be received on or before July 21, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed technical standard order to: Technical Programs and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service—File No. TSO-C124a, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. Or deliver comments to: Federal Aviation Administration, Room 804, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Bobbie J. Smith, Technical Programs and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, Telephone (202) 267-9546.

#### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed TSO listed in this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire to the above specified address. Comments received on the proposed technical standard order may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 804, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB-10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments specified above will be considered by the Director of the Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final TSO.

#### Background

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued four safety recommendations to the FAA concerning the fire protection standards for cockpit voice records (CVRs) and

flight data recorders (FDRs). The recommendations were prompted by the loss of vital information from several CVRs and FDRs as a result of thermal destruction of the recording medium in posit impact fires. The recommendations request, among other requests, to conduct a study to determine the actual thermal profile of post impact fires and to revise the certification test protocol; to revise TSO's C123 and C124 to reflect the results of the study.

The tests were conducted at the FAA Technical Center and final report was issued October 1994, titled "Investigation of Flight Data Recorder Fire Test Requirements." The revised fire test protocol from this report is included in this revised TSO and is essentially the fire test in the reference European Organisation of Civil Aviation Equipment document "Minimum Operational Performance Specification for Cockpit Voice Recorder System" ED-56A published December 1993 except for the high temperature fire test has been extended to 60 minutes from 30 minutes.

#### How to Obtain Copies

A copy of the proposed TSO-C124a may be obtained by contacting "For Further Information Contact." TSO-C124a references EUROCAE Document No. ED-55, dated May 1990, for the minimum operational performance specification, ED-14C, dated December 1989, and RTCA/DO-160C, dated December 1989, for environment standards, and RTCA/DO-178B, dated December 1992, for the computer software requirements. EUROCAE Documents No. ED-55 and ED-14C may be purchased from the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Electronics, 11 rue Hamelin, 75783 Paris Cedex 16, France. RTCA/DO-160C and DO-178B may be purchased from RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036-4001.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 13, 1995.

**John K. McGrath,**

*Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.*

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### Cockpit Voice Recorder Systems

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request comments on a proposed Technical Standard Order pertaining to cockpit voice recorder systems. The proposed TSO prescribes the minimum performance standards that cockpit voice recorder systems must meet to be identified with the marking "TSO-C123a."

**DATES:** Comments must identify the TSO file number and be received on or before July 21, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed technical standard order to: Technical Programs and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service—File No. TSO-C123a, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. Or deliver comments to: Federal Aviation Administration, Room 804, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Bobbie J. Smith, Technical Programs and Continued Airworthiness Branch, AIR-120, Aircraft Engineering Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, Telephone (202) 267-9546.

#### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed TSO listed in this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire to the above specified address. Comments received on the proposed technical standard order may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 804, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB-10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments specified above will be considered by the Director of the Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final TSO.

#### Background

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued four safety recommendations to the FAA concerning the fire protection standards for cockpit Voice recorders (CVRs) and flight data recorders (FDRs). The recommendations were prompted by the loss of vital information from several CVRs and FDRs as a result of thermal destruction of the recording medium in posit impact fires. The