

of State, SA-44, Room 700, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: July 19, 2001.

**Brian J. Sexton,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Professional Exchanges, United States Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 01-18664 Filed 7-25-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-08-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Proposed Changes to Advisory Circular 27-1B, Certification of Normal Category Rotorcraft, and Advisory Circular 29-2C, Certification of Transport Category Rotorcraft

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Advisory Circular (AC) proposal changes; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of proposed changes, request for comments, to AC 27-1B, Certification of Normal Category Rotorcraft, and AC 29-2C, Certification of Transport Category Rotorcraft. The proposed changes contain guidance material to bring the AC's up to date with the most recent amendments to 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 27 and 29 and/or current practices. There are 23 paragraph changes proposed for AC 27-1B, and 21 paragraph changes proposed for AC 29-2C.

**DATES:** Any comments must identify Proposed Changes to AC 27-1B, or Proposed Changes to AC 29-2C, and must be received by September 28, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Any comments can be submitted to FAA, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, ASW-110, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0110, or via electronic mail to [Kathy.L.Jones@FAA.GOV](mailto:Kathy.L.Jones@FAA.GOV).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy L. Jones, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certifications Service, Fort Worth, TX 76193-0110; telephone (817) 222-5359; fax (817) 222-5961; email: [Kathy.L.Jones@FAA.GOV](mailto:Kathy.L.Jones@FAA.GOV).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces the availability of proposed changes; request for comments. These proposed changes have been reviewed and commended on

by representatives from U.S. industry, European industry, U.S. authorities, and European authorities. Any interested person not receiving these proposed changes may obtain a copy by contacting the person named under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Copies of these proposed changes may be obtained also from the FAA website [www.faa.gov/avr/air/asw/rotor.htm](http://www.faa.gov/avr/air/asw/rotor.htm).

Interested persons can submit comments on these proposed changes. Comments received may be inspected at the office of the Rotorcraft Standards Staff, FAA, 4th floor, 2601 Meacham Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 20, 2001.

**Michele M. Owsley,**

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Transport Airplane and Engine Issues—New Task

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of new task assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA assigned the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee a new task to develop recommendations to ensure airplane ventilation systems and cabin environment will provide a suitable environment for crew and passengers following a pressurization system failure resulting in an airplane decompression. This notice is to inform the public of this ARAC activity.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles Huber, Federal Aviation Administration, Northwest Mountain Region Headquarters, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW, Renton, Washington, (425) 227-2589, [charles.huber@faa.gov](mailto:charles.huber@faa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

The FAA established the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the FAA Administrator on the FAA's rulemaking activities with respect to aviation-related issues. This includes obtaining advice and recommendations on the FAA's commitments to harmonize Title 14 of the Code of

Federal Regulations (14 CFR) with its partners in Europe and Canada.

#### The Task

##### *Part 1: Ventilation—Heating and Humidity (§ 25.831(g))*

- Review the current airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes regarding airplane cabin and flight deck environment.

- Determine if revisions are needed to ensure the ventilation system, following system failures, will provide a suitable environment for crew and passengers. The assessment should consider:

1. The types of airplane system failure conditions that should be addressed.

2. Setting the appropriate limiting values of cabin and flight-deck temperature, humidity levels, and exposure times to eliminate any unacceptable impact on flight crews and cabin crew performance, disabling any passengers, or creating long-term health problems to passengers or crews.

3. Any relevant National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) Armed Forces, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), academia and industry standards for pressure, temperature and humidity.

- Develop a report based on the review, and recommend any revisions to the rules (including cost estimates) and advisory materials needed to address the above issues.

- If as a result of the recommendations in this report, the FAA publishes a notice of proposed rulemaking and/or notice of availability of proposed advisory circular for public comment, ARAC may be further tasked to review all comments received and provide the FAA with a recommendation for disposition of those comments.

*Schedule:* This report is to be submitted no later than 24 months after the task is published by the FAA in the **Federal Register**.

##### *Part 2: Cabin Pressurization (§ 25.841(a))*

- Review and current airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes regarding airplane cabin altitudes resulting from cabin decompression.

- Determine if revisions are needed to ensure that during certain failure conditions the cabin environment is suitable for crew and passengers. The assessment should consider:

1. The types of airplane system, structure, and/or propulsion failure conditions that should be addressed.

2. The factors that impact the level of severity of the threat, airplane design features, and operation procedures that could be used to moderate the severity of the threat.

3. The recommendation of appropriation cabin pressure standards that would govern cabin air quality following certain failure conditions. These standard should ensure that exposure time to a reduced pressure and the lack of oxygen in the airplane does not reach a level that would:

a. Negatively impact the flight-deck crew's performance to the extent that the flight crew could not safely control the airplane during an emergency descent,

b. Disable any cabin crew member or passenger to the degree that resuscitation techniques would be needed to revive, or

c. Create long term health problems for the crew or passengers.

4. A definition of terms (e.g., "appreciable rise in the pressure differential", "reasonably precludes", "rapidly equalized", "any delay that would significantly increase the hazards", etc.) and appropriate pressurization system requirements and practices during all phases of operation.

5. Any relevant NASA, US Armed Forces, NIOSH, OSHA, FAA, academia and industry standards.

- Develop a report based on the review, and recommend any revisions to the rules (including cost estimates) and advisory materials needed to address the above issues.

- If as a result of the recommendations the FAA publishes a notice of proposed rulemaking and/or notice of availability of proposed advisory circular, ARAC may be further tasked to review all comments received and provide the FAA with a recommendation for disposition of those comments.

*Schedule:* This report is to be submitted no later than 24 months after the task is published by the FAA in the **Federal Register**.

#### **ARAC Acceptance of Task**

ARAC accepted the task and assigned the task to the Mechanical Systems Harmonization Working Group, Transport Airplane and Engine Issues. The working group serves as staff to ARAC and assists in the analysis of assigned task. ARAC must review and approve the working group's recommendations. If ARAC accepts the working group's recommendations, it will forward them to the FAA.

#### **Working Group Activity**

The Mechanical Systems Harmonization Working Group is expected to comply with the procedures adopted by ARAC. As part of the procedures, the working group is expected to:

1. Recommend a work plan for completion of the task, including the rationale supporting such a plan for consideration at the next meeting of the ARAC on Transport Airplane and Engine Issues held following publication of this notice.

2. Give a detailed conceptual presentation of the proposed recommendations prior to proceeding with the work stated in items 3 below.

3. Draft the appropriate documents and required analyses and/or any other related materials or documents.

4. Provide a status report at each meeting of the ARAC held to consider Transport Airplane and Engine Issues.

#### **Participation in the Working Group**

The Mechanical Systems Harmonization Working Group is composed of technical experts having an interest in the assigned task. A working group member need not be a representative or a member of the full committee.

An individual who has expertise in the subject matter and wishes to become a member of the working group should write to the person listed under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** expressing that desire, describing his or her interest in the task, and stating the expertise he or she would bring to the working group. All requests to participate must be received no later than August 24, 2001. The requests will be reviewed by the assistant chair, the assistant executive director, and the working group co-chairs. Individuals will be advised whether or not their request can be accommodated.

Individuals chosen for membership on the working group will be expected to represent their aviation community segment and actively participate in the working group (e.g., attend all meetings, provide written comments when requests to do so, etc.). They also will be expected to devote the resources necessary to support the working group in meeting any assigned deadlines. Members are expected to keep their management chain and those they may represent advised of working group activities and decisions to ensure that the proposed technical solutions do not conflict with their sponsoring organization's position when the subject being negotiated is presented to ARAC for approval.

Once the working group has begun deliberations, members will not be added or substituted without the approval of the assistant chair, the assistant executive director, and the working group co-chairs.

The Secretary of Transportation determined that the formation and use of the ARAC is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the FAA by law.

Meetings of the ARAC will be open to the public. Meetings of the Mechanical Systems Harmonization Working Group will not be open to the public, except to the extent that individuals with an interest and expertise are selected to participate. The FAA will make no public announcement of working group meetings.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 23, 2001.

**Anthony F. Fazio,**

*Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **Environmental Finding Document**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Environmental finding document: finding no significant impact; notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, the application of which is guided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), evaluating a Sea Launch Limited Partnership (SLLP) proposal to evaluate the potential environmental effects of issuing a launch operator license (LOL) or launch-specific licenses to SLLP. The LOL would allow SLLP to conduct up to eight commercial launches per year for five years without obtaining a separate license for each launch as long as there is not change in the launch parameters or in the anticipated environmental impacts. These launches would be equatorial and would use azimuths between 82.6° and 97.4°, inclusive, originating from the SLLP Launch Platform (LP) at 0° latitude and 154° West (W) longitude, which is 425 kilometers (km) (266 miles (mi)) from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) in the