DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 135

[Docket No.: FAA–2012–0007; Amdt. No. 135–126]

RIN 2120–AK02

Authorization To Use Lower Than Standard Takeoff, Approach and Landing Minimums at Military and Foreign Airports; Confirmation of Effective Date

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Direct final rule; confirmation of effective date.

SUMMARY: This action confirms the effective date of the direct final rule published on January 11, 2012. The rule allows qualified operators to conduct lower than standard instrument flight rules (IFR) airport operations at military airports or outside the United States when authorized to do so by their operations specifications.

DATES: The effective date for the direct final rule published on January 11, 2012, at 77 FR 1629, is confirmed as February 27, 2012.

ADDRESSES: For information on where to obtain copies of rulemaking documents and other information related to this action, see “How To Obtain Additional Information” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical questions concerning this action, contact Gregory French, Air Transportation Division, 135 Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS–250, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267–4112; email gregory.french@faa.gov.

For legal questions concerning this action, contact Robert Frenzel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Operations Law Branch, (AGC–220), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267–3073; email robert.frenzel@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Before publication of this direct final rule on January 11, 2012 (77 FR 1629), Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) limited certain operators to a takeoff minimum visibility of 1 mile and a landing minimum visibility of 1/2 mile when conducting IFR operations at foreign and military airports, even when the operator has demonstrated the ability to safely conduct operations in lower visibility. The FAA has determined since many part 135 operators have met the requirement necessary to conduct lower than standard IFR operations authorized by OpSpec C079, it would amend the requirement to allow for lower than standard IFR operations at military and foreign airports only for those part 135 operators authorized through that OpSpec.

Discussion of Comments

The FAA received comments from two individual commenters. Both commenters supported the rule change. The commenters generally stated that the rule change permitted those operators that obtain authority to conduct lower than standard visibility operations at U.S. airports to exercise the same authority at foreign and military airports.

Conclusion

After consideration of the comments submitted in response to the direct final rule, the FAA has determined that no further rulemaking action is necessary. The rule will take effect on February 27, 2012.

How To Obtain Additional Information

A. Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of a rulemaking document may be obtained by using the Internet—

1. Search the Federal eRulemaking Portal (http://www.regulations.gov);
2. Visit the FAA’s Regulations and Policies Web page at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/ or

Copies may also be obtained by sending a request (identified by notice, amendment, or docket number of this rulemaking) to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM–1, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267–9680.

B. Comments Submitted to the Docket

Comments received may be viewed by going to http://www.regulations.gov and following the online instructions to search the docket number for this action. Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of the FAA’s dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.).
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52


Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Washington, DC-MD-VA 8-Hour Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is making two determinations regarding the Washington, DC-MD-VA moderate 8-hour ozone nonattainment area (the Washington Area). First, EPA is making a determination that the Washington Area has attained the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) by its June 15, 2010 attainment date. This determination is based upon complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data that show the area has monitored attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS for the 2007–2009 monitoring period. Second, EPA is making a clean data determination, finding that the Washington Area has attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, based on complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2007–2009 and 2008–2010 monitoring periods. In accordance with EPA’s applicable ozone implementation rule, this clean data determination suspends the requirement for the Washington Area to submit an attainment demonstration, reasonably available control measures (RACM), a reasonable further progress (RFP) plan and contingency measures related to attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. These requirements shall be suspended for so long as the area continues to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. These actions are being taken under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: Effective Date: This final rule is effective on March 29, 2012.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID Number EPA–R03–OAR–2010–0986. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov Web site. Although listed in the electronic docket, some information is not publicly available, i.e., confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through www.regulations.gov or in hard copy for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria A. Pino, (215) 814–2181, or by email at pino.maria.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following outline is provided to aid in locating information in this action.

I. Background
II. Summary of Actions
III. Final Action
IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

I. Background

EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia (the States) on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 58206). Pursuant to section 181(b)(2)(A) of the CAA, the September 20, 2011 NPR proposed to determine that the Washington Area attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS by its attainment date, June 15, 2010. This proposed determination was based upon complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2007–2009 monitoring period that show the area has monitored attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS during this monitoring period. Complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data for the 2008–2010 monitoring period shows continued attainment.

The September 20, 2011 NPR also proposed to make a clean data determination that the Washington Area has attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. This proposed clean data determination was based upon complete, quality assured, and certified ambient air monitoring data that show the area has monitored attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS for the 2007–2009 and 2008–2010 monitoring periods. As a result of this determination, the requirement for this area to submit an attainment demonstration, a RACM analysis, an RFP plan, contingency measures, and other planning requirements related to attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS shall be suspended for so long as the area continues to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

II. Summary of Actions

A. Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date

EPA is making a determination that the Washington Area has attained the 1997 ozone NAAQS by its applicable attainment date of June 15, 2010. As a result of this action, EPA has met its requirement pursuant to CAA section 181(b)(2)(A) to determine, based on the area’s air quality as of the attainment date, whether the area attained the standard by that date. The effect of a final determination of attainment by the area’s attainment date is to discharge EPA’s obligation under CAA section 181(b)(2)(A), and to establish that, in accordance with CAA section 181(b)(2)(A), the area will not be reclassified for failure to attain by its applicable attainment date. This determination of attainment is not equivalent to a redesignation. The state and local air quality management systems that may have this information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through www.regulations.gov or in hard copy for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria A. Pino, (215) 814–2181, or by email at pino.maria.epa.gov.

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I. Background

EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia (the States) on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 58206). Pursuant to section 181(b)(2)(A) of the CAA, the September 20, 2011 NPR proposed to determine that the Washington Area attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS by its attainment date, June 15, 2010. This proposed determination was based

2 In the NPR, EPA stated that its obligations to determine if an area attained the 1997 8-hour NAAQS by its attainment was found under CAA sections 181(b)(2)(A) and 179(c) as the statutory authority for determining whether the Washington Area attained the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS by its attainment date. In this final notice, EPA is correcting that statement to clarify that here the appropriate statutory authority derives from section 181(b)(2)(A).