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Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and part 91 Helicopter Operations” (79 FR 9932) (effective date delayed on April 21, 2014, at 79 FR 22012; final rule corrected at 79 FR 41125, July 15, 2014). In that final rule, the FAA addressed helicopter air ambulance operations and all commercial helicopter operations conducted under part 135. The FAA also established new weather minimums for helicopters operating under part 91 in Class G airspace. In the February 21, 2014, final rule, the FAA, among other things, added §135.613 to Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. Section 135.613, Approach/departure IFR transitions, describes the required weather minimums to transition into and out of the IFR environment, aiding in the transition from the minimum descent altitude on an instrument approach procedure, to the point of intended landing.

**Background**

Copter Point-in-Space Instrument Approach Procedures with a final visual segment are designed to accommodate one of two types of visual transitions between the missed approach point (MAP) and the intended point of landing. The approach procedure may depict a visual transition noted as “proceed visually” or a visual transition noted as “proceed VFR”. “Proceed visually” transition segments are designed with relatively short distances between the MAP and the intended landing site and are considered a continuation of the IFR procedure. “Proceed VFR” transition segments span longer distances and/or require turns from the final approach course toward a landing facility and therefore require considerably greater ceilings and visibilities as defined within 14 CFR 135.613. The same may be said about departures from landing facilities to enter the IFR flight environment. Obstacle Departure Procedures (ODP) may provide takeoff minimum weather conditions for IFR departures from the landing site. Other landing facility departures that do not have published takeoff minimums on an ODP must observe higher ceiling and visibility minimums in accordance with 14 CFR 135.613.

**Discussion**

The FAA received a summary of comments and input from associations and various operators in the helicopter air ambulance industry on the Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations final rule. The summary paper was prepared by Helicopter Association International (HAI), American Medical Operators Association (AMOA) and the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS). The various operators stated that the title of 135.613 is misleading and will cause confusion. The commenters explained that the title of the regulation references IFR transitions when it should be referencing VFR transitions.

The FAA clarifies that the regulation addresses IFR clearances and visual or VFR transitions into or out of the IFR flight environment, thus the regulation correctly characterizes the transitions as elements of the IFR environment.

Multiple industry commenters also voiced concerns regarding technical differences between the terms “proceed visually” and “proceed VFR” as applied to transitions for instrument approaches and instrument departures. The following provides further explanation to assist industry in understanding what the difference is between the two terms.

Copter Point-in-Space approaches provide an instrument descent along a predetermined course to safely allow IFR helicopter traffic to descend to a minimum descent altitude (MDA) prior to or upon arriving at MAP. At the MAP, the pilot must assess whether or not the flight can safely and legally proceed to the destination in the meteorological conditions present. Continuation of the flight beyond the MAP must be accomplished via a visual transition segment in accordance with the design of the Instrument Approach Procedure (IAP).

There are two types of visual transition segments associated with continued flight beyond the MAP to one or more nearby landing facilities clustered around the MAP. The published approach procedure will indicate either “proceed visually” or “proceed VFR” along this transition segment. The presence of obstructions and terrain, combined with the distance between the MAP and the landing facility, determine the type of transition and the visibility required to legally and safely make the transition from the MAP to the destination.

If a published approach depicts a “proceed visually” segment, that segment is conducted on a clearance under IFR and is not the subject of discussion under §135.613. This case is analogous to the visual transition from a MAP to a runway on an IFR approach, which is conducted visually. In the case of the “proceed visually” transition, the minimum required visibility will be independent of the procedure. Generally, this means the pilot should be able to see the destination heliport from the MAP. The minimum distance between the MAP and a destination landing facility for a “proceed visually” transition is 0.55 nautical miles. This minimum segment distance is intended to facilitate avoidance of adverse consequences of combined high descent rates and deceleration rates. The minimum visibility for the “proceed visually” transition segment is ¾ nautical mile, so that the pilot should always be able to visually acquire the point of intended landing before beginning the visual segment of the instrument approach. The required visibility is commensurately greater for “proceed visually” transition segments that are longer than 0.65 nautical miles.

If a published approach depicts a “proceed VFR” segment, the visual segment must be conducted under VFR. 14 CFR 135.613 pertains to the “proceed VFR” transition when depicted on the published approach. If the distance between the MAP and the landing facility is less than or equal to one nautical mile, §135.613(a)(1) sets the minimum visibility to 1 statute mile. If the distance between the MAP and the intended landing site is between one nautical mile and three nautical miles, §135.613(a)(2) sets the day ceiling and visibility requirements to 600’ and 2 nautical miles, and sets the night ceiling and visibility requirements to 600’ and 3 nautical miles. If the distance between the MAP and the intended landing site is greater than three nautical miles, §135.613(a)(3) requires the ceiling and visibility to meet either the helicopter air ambulance Class G VFR weather minimums shown in Table 1 of §135.609, or, if within Class B, C, D, or E airspace, to meet the weather minimums referenced in §135.205.

With respect to instrument departures, §135.613(b) addresses only VFR to IFR transitions, not departures conducted under an IFR clearance with takeoff minimums published on an ODP. If a departing flight obtains an IFR clearance valid from lift off and weather meets or exceeds the published ODP takeoff minimums, the pilot can “proceed visually” under the IFR clearance to the Initial Departure Fix (IDF). In this case, there is no VFR segment, the published takeoff weather requirements are in effect, and §135.613(b) does not apply.

If, however, the departing flight must lift off VFR and “proceed VFR” via an ODP to a point where an IFR clearance becomes effective or to a point where the IFR clearance may be obtained on the way to the IDF, §135.613(b)(1) applies. This requirement is a minimum visibility of 1 nautical mile prior to lift off if the IDF is no more than 1 nautical
mile away from the point of lift off. If the departure involves a VFR to IFR transition and does not meet the requirements of § 135.613(b)(1), (there is no ODP, and/or the IDF is more than 1 nautical mile from the point of lift off), the VFR weather minimums required by the class of airspace apply. If the flight is within Class G airspace, refer to § 135.609; if it is within Class B, C, D, or E airspace, refer to § 135.205.

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Michael J. Zenkovich,
Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

17 CFR Parts 229, 230, 232, 239, 240, 243, and 249

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Asset-Backed Securities Disclosure and Registration

Correction

In rule document 2014–21375 appearing on pages 57184 through 57346 in the issue of Wednesday, September 24, 2014, make the following corrections:

§ 229.601 (Item 601) Exhibits [Corrected]

1. On page 57312, in “Exhibit Table”, in column “10–Q”, the entry corresponding with number “(31) should read “X”.

Appendix to § 229.1125—Schedule AL [Corrected]

2. On page 57328, in column three, on lines 29–33, the entry for paragraph “(b)” should read “If the asset pool includes asset-backed securities issued after November 23, 2016, provide the asset-level information specified in § 229.1111(h) for the assets backing each security in the asset pool.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

TTB Authority

Chapter 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) pertains to the taxation of distilled spirits, wines, and beer (see title 26 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), chapter 51 (26 U.S.C. chapter 51)). With regard to beer, IRC section 5051 (26 U.S.C. 5051) imposes a Federal excise tax on all beer brewed or produced, and removed for consumption or sale, within the United States, or imported into the United States. The rate of the Federal excise tax on beer is $18 for every barrel containing not more than 31 gallons, and a like rate for any other quantity or for fractional parts of a barrel, with an exception that the rate of tax is $7 a barrel for the first 60,000 barrels of beer for a domestic brewer that does not produce more than 2 million barrels of beer in a calendar year. Section 5054 (26 U.S.C. 5054) provides that, in general, the tax imposed on beer under section 5051 shall be determined at the time the beer is removed for consumption or sale, and shall be paid by the brewer in accordance with section 5061 (26 U.S.C. 5061).

Section 5061 pertains to the time and method for submitting tax returns and payment of the applicable excise taxes. Section 5061 states that Federal excise taxes on distilled spirits, wines, and beer shall be collected on the basis of a return, and that the Secretary of the Treasury (the Secretary) shall, by regulation, prescribe the period or event for which such return shall be filed. Section 5061(d)(1) generally requires that the excise taxes owed on alcohol beverages, including beer, withdrawn under bond be paid no later than the 14th day after the last day of the semimonthly period during which the withdrawal occurs. Under a special rule, September has three return periods (section 5061(d)(5)), resulting in a total of 25 returns due each year. Section 5061(d)(4) provides an exception to the semimonthly rule for taxpayers who reasonably expect to be liable for not more than $50,000 in alcohol excise taxes in a calendar year and who were liable for not more than $50,000 in the preceding calendar year. Under this provision, such taxpayers may pay the excise taxes on alcohol beverages withdrawn under bond on a quarterly basis.

Section 5401(b) (26 U.S.C. 5401(b)) provides that all brewers shall obtain a bond to insure the payment of any taxes owed. The amount of such bond shall be “in such reasonable penal sum” as prescribed by the Secretary in regulations “as necessary to protect and insure collection of the revenue.”

Section 5415 of the IRC (26 U.S.C. 5415) requires brewers to keep records and to make true and accurate “returns” of their brewing and associated operations at the times and for such periods as the Secretary prescribes by regulation. The implementing regulations refer to these “returns” as “reports” of operations. 

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) administers chapter 51 of the IRC and its implementing regulations pursuant to section 1131(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified at 6 U.S.C. 531(d). The