

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 23

[Docket No. FAA-2018-0918; Notice No. 23-18-03-SC]

Special Conditions: Innovative Solutions & Support, Inc.; Textron Aviation, Inc. Model B200-Series Airplanes; Autothrust Functions

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed special conditions.

SUMMARY: This action proposes special conditions for Textron Aviation, Inc. B200-series airplanes. These airplanes as modified by Innovative Solutions & Support, Inc., will have a novel or unusual design feature associated with an autothrust system. The applicable airworthiness regulations do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for this design feature. These proposed special conditions contain the additional safety standards the Administrator considers necessary to establish a level of safety equivalent to that established by the existing airworthiness standards.

DATES: Send your comments on or before December 10, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2018-0918 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRegulations Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC, 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery of Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9

a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202-493-2251.

Privacy: The FAA will post all comments it receives, without change, to <http://regulations.gov>, including any personal information the commenter provides. Using the search function of the docket website, anyone can find and read the electronic form of all comments received into any FAA docket, including the name of the individual sending the comment (or signing the comment for an association, business, labor union, etc.). DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement can be found in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477-19478), as well as at <http://DocketsInfo.dot.gov>.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m., and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Pretz, AIR-691, Regulations & Policy Section, Small Airplane Standards Branch, Policy & Innovation Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 901 Locust; Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone (816) 329-3239; facsimile (816) 329-4090; email Jeff.Pretz@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

We invite interested people to take part in this rulemaking by sending written comments, data, or views. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the special conditions, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. We ask that you send us two copies of written comments.

We will consider all comments we receive on or before the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. We may change these special conditions based on the comments we receive.

Background

On December 14, 2017, Innovative Solutions & Support, Inc. (Innovative

Solutions), applied for a supplemental type certificate for installation of an autothrust system (ATS)—also known as an autothrottle system—in Textron Aviation, Inc., (Textron) B200-series airplanes. The B200-series airplanes are powered by two Pratt & Whitney PT6A turbo-propeller engines—depending on airplane model—that can carry thirteen passengers, including two-flightcrew members. These airplanes have a service ceiling up to 35,000-feet and a maximum takeoff weight of up to 12,500 pounds in the normal category. These airplanes are approved for single-pilot operation.

The installation of an ATS in Textron B200-series airplanes is intended to reduce pilot workload. The ATS is useable in all phases of flight except below decision height on approach. The system includes a torque and airspeed mode along with monitors to prevent the system from exceeding critical engine or airspeed limits. Throttle movement is provided by a stepper motor acting through a linear actuator, which acts as a link between the stepper motor and throttle. The liner actuator can be overridden by pilot movement of the throttle and automatically disengages upon disagreement in the expected throttle position versus its actual position.

Section 23.1329, amendment 23-49, only contained requirements for automatic pilot systems that act on the airplane flight controls. Autothrust systems are automatic systems that act on the thrust controls. These systems provide enhanced automation and safety, but may also introduce pilot confusion, countering the safety benefit. 14 CFR 25.1329, amendment 25-119, addresses these concerns. Therefore, these proposed special conditions are based on § 25.1329 and provide additional requirements to standardize the pilot interface and system behavior and enhance pilot awareness of system active and armed modes.

Type Certification Basis

Under the provisions of § 21.101, Innovative Solutions must show that B200-series airplanes, as changed, continue to meet the applicable provisions of the regulations incorporated by reference in Type Certificate (TC) No. A24CE¹ or the

¹ See <http://rgl.faa.gov/>.

applicable regulations in effect on the date of application for the change. The regulations incorporated by reference in the type certificate are commonly referred to as the “original type certification basis.” The regulations incorporated by reference in TC No. A24CE are as follows: 14 CFR part 23, amendments 23–1 through 23–9, plus various later part 23 amendments—depending on the model and serial number of the airplane—as noted on Type Certification Data Sheet A24CE.

If the Administrator finds the applicable airworthiness regulations (*i.e.*, 14 CFR part 23) do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for B200-series airplanes because of a novel or unusual design feature, special conditions are prescribed under the provisions of § 21.16.

Special conditions are initially applicable to the model(s) for which they are issued. Should the applicant apply for a supplemental type certificate to modify any other model included on the same type certificate to incorporate the same or similar novel or unusual design feature, the FAA would apply these special conditions to the other model under § 21.101.

In addition to the applicable airworthiness regulations and special conditions, B200-series airplanes must comply with the fuel vent and exhaust emission requirements of 14 CFR part 34 and the noise certification requirements of 14 CFR part 36.

The FAA issues special conditions, as defined in 14 CFR 11.19, in accordance with § 11.38, and they become part of the type-certification basis under § 21.101.

Novel or Unusual Design Features

Textron B200-series airplanes will incorporate the following novel or unusual design features:

Autothrust system, which provides commands to two linear actuators, one attached to each throttle lever, that automatically control thrust on each engine. The autothrust system can be operated in either Torque Control Mode or Airspeed Mode.

Discussion

The current part 23 airworthiness regulations do not contain appropriate safety standards for an ATS installation; hence, the need for special conditions. However, part 25 regulations contain appropriate airworthiness standards; therefore, these proposed special conditions are derived from 14 CFR 25.1329, amendment 25–119. Sections 23.143, amendment 23–50, and 23.1309, amendment 23–62, would be used

instead of the corresponding part 25 regulations referenced in § 25.1329.

Applicability

As discussed above, these special conditions are applicable to Textron B200-series airplanes. Should Innovative Solutions apply at a later date for a supplemental type certificate to modify any other model included on TC No. A24CE to incorporate the same novel or unusual design feature, the FAA would apply these special conditions to that model as well.

Conclusion

This action affects only certain novel or unusual design features on one model series of airplanes. It is not a rule of general applicability and it affects only the applicant who applied to the FAA for approval of these features on the airplane.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 23

Aircraft, Aviation safety, Signs and symbols.

The authority citation for these special conditions is as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g), 40113, 44701–44702, 44704, Pub. L. 113–53, 127 Stat. 584 (49 U.S.C. 44704) note.

The Proposed Special Conditions

■ Accordingly, the FAA proposes the following special conditions as part of the type certification basis for Textron Aviation, Inc., B200-series airplanes as modified by Innovative Solutions & Support, Inc.

1. Autothrottle System

In addition to the requirements of §§ 23.143, 23.1309, and 23.1329, the following apply:

(a) Quick disengagement controls for the autothrust functions must be provided for each pilot. The autothrust quick disengagement controls must be located on the thrust control levers. Quick disengagement controls must be readily accessible to each pilot while operating the thrust control levers.

(b) The effects of a failure of the system to disengage the autothrust functions when manually commanded by the pilot must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of § 23.1309.

(c) Engagement or switching of the flight guidance system, a mode, or a sensor may not cause the autothrust system to affect a transient response that alters the airplane’s flight path any greater than a minor transient, as defined in paragraph (1)(l)(1) of this section.

(d) Under normal conditions, the disengagement of any automatic control

function of a flight guidance system may not cause a transient response of the airplane’s flight path any greater than a minor transient.

(e) Under rare normal and non-normal conditions, disengagement of any automatic control function of a flight guidance system may not result in a transient any greater than a significant transient, as defined in paragraph (1)(l)(2) of this section.

(f) The function and direction of motion of each command reference control, such as heading select or vertical speed, must be plainly indicated on, or adjacent to, each control if necessary to prevent inappropriate use or confusion.

(g) Under any condition of flight appropriate to its use, the flight guidance system may not produce hazardous loads on the airplane, nor create hazardous deviations in the flight path. This applies to both fault-free operation and in the event of a malfunction, and assumes the pilot begins corrective action within a reasonable period of time.

(h) When the flight guidance system is in use, a means must be provided to avoid excursions beyond an acceptable margin from the speed range of the normal flight envelope. If the airplane experiences an excursion outside this range, a means must be provided to prevent the flight guidance system from providing guidance or control to an unsafe speed.

(i) The flight guidance system functions, controls, indications, and alerts must be designed to minimize flight crew errors and confusion concerning the behavior and operation of the flight guidance system. Means must be provided to indicate the current mode of operation, including any armed modes, transitions, and reversions. Selector switch position is not an acceptable means of indication. The controls and indications must be grouped and presented in a logical and consistent manner. The indications must be visible to each pilot under all expected lighting conditions.

(j) Following disengagement of the autothrust function, a caution (visual and auditory) must be provided to each pilot.

(k) During autothrust operation, it must be possible for the flightcrew to move the thrust levers without requiring excessive force. The autothrust may not create a potential hazard when the flightcrew applies an override force to the thrust levers.

(l) For purposes of this section, a transient is a disturbance in the control or flight path of the airplane that is not

consistent with response to flight crew inputs or environmental conditions.

(1) A minor transient would not significantly reduce safety margins and would involve flightcrew actions that are well within their capabilities. A minor transient may involve a slight increase in flight crew workload or some physical discomfort to passengers or cabin crew.

(2) A significant transient may lead to a significant reduction in safety margins, an increase in flight crew workload, discomfort to the flightcrew, or physical distress to the passengers or cabin crew, possibly including non-fatal injuries. Significant transients do not require, in order to remain within or recover to the normal flight envelope, any of the following:

(i) Exceptional piloting skill, alertness, or strength.

(ii) Forces applied by the pilot that are greater than those specified in § 23.143(c).

(iii) Accelerations or attitudes in the airplane that might result in further hazard to secured or non-secured occupants.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 10, 2018.

Jacqueline Jambor,

Acting Manager, Small Airplane Standards Branch, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–22661 Filed 10–25–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

31 CFR Part 1

RIN 1505–AC35

Freedom of Information Act Regulations

AGENCY: Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This rule proposes revisions to the Department's regulations under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The regulations are being revised to update and streamline procedures and incorporate certain changes brought about by the amendments to the FOIA under the OPEN Government Act of 2007 and the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. Additionally, the regulations are being updated to reflect developments in the case law and to include current cost figures to be used in calculating and charging fees.

DATES: *Comment due date:* December 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Fax:* (202) 622–3895, ATTN Ryan Law.

- *Mail:* Ryan Law, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency and Records, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20220.

Comments received by mail will be considered timely if they are postmarked on or before the comment date. The www.regulations.gov site will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. eastern time on the comment due date. The Department will consolidate all received comments and make them available, without change, including any business or personal information that you provide such as name and address information, email addresses, or phone numbers. Received comments, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not enclose any information in your comments or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure. Properly submitted comments will be available for inspection and downloading at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ryan Law, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency and Records, 202–622–0930, extension 2 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

This rule proposes revisions to the Department's regulations under the FOIA to update and streamline the language of several procedural provisions and to incorporate certain of the changes brought about by the amendments to the FOIA under the OPEN Government Act of 2007, Public Law 110–175, 121 Stat. 2524 and the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Public Law 114–185, 130 Stat. 538.

Additionally, the regulations are being updated to reflect developments in case law and to include current cost figures to be used in calculating and charging fees.

The revisions of the FOIA regulations in 31 CFR subpart A of part 1 incorporate changes to the language and structure of the regulations. Revised provisions include § 1.1 (General Provisions), § 1.2 (Proactive disclosure of Department records), § 1.3 (Requirements for making requests), § 1.4 (Responsibility for responding to requests), § 1.5 (Timing of responses to requests), § 1.6 (Responses to requests), § 1.7 (Confidential commercial information), § 1.8 (Administrative

appeals), § 1.9 (Preservation of records), § 1.10 (Fees), and § 1.11 (Other rights and services).

Sections 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, and 1.10 all address the role of the FOIA Public Liaison in assisting requesters with resolving disputes related to their FOIA requests, as required by the OPEN Government Act of 2007.

The 2007 Act also required agencies to assign tracking numbers to requests that will take longer than 10 days to process. This requirement is implemented through § 1.6.

The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 provides that agencies must allow a minimum of 90 days for requesters to file an administrative appeal. The Act also requires that agencies notify requesters of the availability of dispute resolution services at various times throughout the FOIA process. This proposed rule updates the Department's regulations to reflect those statutory changes (§§ 1.5, 1.6, 1.8).

A number of changes have been made to the section on fees (§ 1.10). The definition of representative of the news media has been updated to reflect amendments to the FOIA under the OPEN Government Act of 2007. Further, § 1.10 has been updated to reflect amendments to the FOIA in 2007 and 2016 that limit the agency's ability to assess fees when certain timelines or conditions are not met. The current regulation also revises § 1.10 to conform to a recent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit addressing the "educational institution" fee category. *See Sack v. Dept. of Defense*, 823 F.3d 687 (D.C. Cir. 2016). Specifically, the definition of "educational institution" is revised to reflect the holding in *Sack* that students who make FOIA requests in furtherance of their coursework or other school-sponsored activities may qualify under this requester category. Therefore, the requirement that such a requester show that the request is made under the auspices of the educational institution is replaced with a requirement that the requester show that the request is made in connection with the requester's role at the educational institution. Section 1.10 also proposes revisions to the Department's fee schedule. The duplication charge for photocopying will decrease to \$.15 per page, while document search and review charges have been established at \$21.00, \$16.50, and \$13.00 per quarter hour for executive, professional, and administrative time, respectively. Treasury components will be given flexibility to publish their own fee schedules that deviate from the Department's fee schedule as