UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
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Civil Air Regulations Amendment 40-29
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PART 40—SCHEDULED INTERSTATE AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES

IFR Landing Minimums for Pilots With Less Than 100 Hours as Pilot in Command in a Particular Type of Airplane

The Federal Aviation Agency published as a notice of proposed rule making (25 F.R. 3554) and circulated as Civil Air Regulations Draft Release No. 60-7 on April 18, 1960, a proposal to amend Parts 40, 41, and 42 of the Civil Air Regulations to require that higher landing minimums be made applicable to all pilots in command who have not served 100 hours as pilot in command in air carrier operations in a particular type of airplane.

Standard operating limitations, presently contained in the operations specifications of all air carriers subject to Part 40, require that ceiling and visibility minimums for IFR landings be increased by 100 feet ceiling and ½ mile visibility for those pilots who have not served 100 hours as pilot in command in air carrier operations in a particular type of airplane. As this requirement is applicable to all scheduled interstate air carriers and commercial operators subject to Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations, it is appropriate that it be included in the Civil Air Regulations rather than in the air carriers' operations specifications.

These limitations, which are presently contained in the operations specifications, permit a pilot in command to operate at the lower IFR landing minimums prior to obtaining the required 100 hours experience if a company check pilot certifies that he is qualified to do so. Investigation of the practice among air carriers has revealed wide variations in making the determination that a pilot is qualified for the lower landing minimums prior to his attaining 100 hours as pilot in command in a particular type of airplane. This has resulted in pilots being certified to operate at the lower landing minimums after having attained, in some instances, only a small fraction of the required 100 hours.

While the air carriers, in commenting on Draft Release 60-7, expressed their belief that the limitations presently contained in the operations specifications are basically sound, the majority of all comments received in response to the draft release indicated concurrence with adoption of a regulation requiring higher IFR landing minimums for pilots who have not acquired a specified amount of experience as pilot in command in a particular type of airplane in air carrier operations. In addition, the majority of comment suggested that in no case should this requirement be subject to reduction at the discretion of a company check pilot.

There were also suggestions made that certain other factors, such as the pilot's previous experience, his overall proficiency, his knowledge of the particular airport, and the number of approaches and landings made in the new type of airplane, should be recognized and substituted for a portion of the required 100 hours. While these suggestions have merit, it is believed that the factors to be considered could become so numerous, and difficult to assess in terms of an equivalent number of flight hours, as to diminish the effectiveness of the rule.

The safe execution of an instrument approach to the lowest minimums requires the highest degree of pilot familiarity with the airplane, its controls, instruments, and performance characteristics. One hundred hours of experience in a new type of airplane as pilot in command in air carrier or commercial operations is necessary in order to achieve this degree of familiarity so essential to safe operations at the lowest landing minimums.

The Federal Aviation Agency therefore believes that, in the interest of safety, all pilots in command should use IFR landing ceiling and visibility weather minimums 100 feet higher and ½ mile greater than regularly approved minimums, until they have obtained 100 hours of air carrier or commercial operator pilot-in-command experience in a particular type of airplane.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this regulation, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matters presented.

In consideration of the foregoing, § 40.406 of Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 40, as amended) is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows, effective May 23, 1961:

§ 40.406 Takeoff and landing weather minimums; IFR.

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(e) The ceiling and visibility landing minimums prescribed in the air carrier's operations specifications for regular, provisional, or refueling airports shall be increased by 100 feet ceiling and ½ mile visibility whenever the pilot in command has not served 100 hours as pilot in command in air carrier or commercial operations in the particular type of airplane being operated by him. The ceiling and visibility minimums need not be increased above those applicable to the airport when used as an alternate airport. The sliding scale, when authorized in the air carrier's operations specifications, shall not be applied until the pilot in command has served 100 hours as pilot in command in air carrier or commercial operations in the particular type of airplane being operated by him.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 604, 72 Stat. 752, 775, 776; 49 U.S.C. 1354(a), 1421, 1424)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on April 17, 1961.

N. E. HALABY,
Administrator.

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able of being rapidly placed on the face from its ready position, properly secured, sealed, and supplying oxygen upon demand. The mask must also be so designed that upon completion of the donning action it does not prevent the flight crewmember from being able immediately to communicate with other crewmembers over the airplane intercommunication system. If flight crewmembers are provided with oxygen masks which meet these standards, the regulation requires one pilot at the controls of the airplane to wear and use an oxygen mask at all times while operating above flight level 250. However, as stated in the proviso to the rule, if each flight crewmember on flight deck duty is provided with a quick-donning type of oxygen mask, the one pilot at the controls of the airplane need not wear and use an oxygen mask while at or below flight level 350.

Upon consideration of comments received, the criteria proposed for the quick-donning type of oxygen mask have been changed to specify a donning time of 5 seconds. The proposal to require a demonstration that the mask is capable of being donned without disturbing headphones has been deleted. However, the Agency considers it necessary to require, as criteria for the quick-donning type of oxygen mask, a demonstration: (1) That the mask is capable of being placed on the face from its ready position, properly secured, sealed, and supplying oxygen upon demand, with one hand and within 5 seconds; (2) that the donning of the mask can be accomplished without disturbing eye glasses and without delaying the flight crewmember from proceeding with his assigned emergency duties; and (3) that upon completion of the donning action, the oxygen mask does not prevent the flight crewmember from being able immediately to communicate with other crewmembers over the airplane intercommunication system.

The Agency has concluded that if all flight crewmembers are provided with an oxygen mask which qualifies as a quick-donning type of mask, they will be sufficiently equipped for protection against the dangers of hypoxia to justify not requiring one pilot at the controls to wear and use an oxygen mask while operating at or below flight level 350. Above that flight level, however, the time element becomes more critical and in the interest of safety we consider it necessary to require one pilot at the controls to wear and use an oxygen mask at all times.

The Agency believes that the initial and recurrent instructional training given flight crewmembers should include actual training and practice in the donning of the oxygen mask. If masks of the quick-donning type are provided by the air carrier, it should require each flight crewmember to demonstrate his ability to properly don the mask from its ready position, with one hand and within 5 seconds, and proceed with his emergency duties without delay. Such training and practice are equally as important to personal safety as the quick-donning characteristics of the mask which have been demonstrated by the air carrier.

Presently, the maximum certificated ceiling for transport category airplanes used in air carrier operations is 42,000 feet. If higher ceilings are authorized in the future for airplanes used in air carrier operations, the Agency will undertake to evaluate the present rules in light of such operations and, if necessary, prescribe additional oxygen equipment and operational procedures to insure the protection of all occupants of the airplane.

With regard to the proposal for pressure chamber indoctrination for each flight crewmember, after fully considering all comments received and all factors involved, we have concluded that such a requirement should not be adopted. We believe that the trainee experiencing hypoxia does not benefit from the experience as much as the persons who are objectively observing the occurrence; nor is he apt to recall what took place while under the effects of hypoxia. Flight crewmembers participating in the air carriers' approved training programs, which include films, lectures, and studies of all phases of the subject of high-altitude operations, will be equally well indoctrinated with the dangers attendant upon hypoxia and the need for compliance with the techniques and emergency procedures involved in the event of a rapid decompression.

Therefore, in lieu of experiencing the actual low pressure chamber indoctrination, we are requiring all flight crewmembers, as a part of their approved emergency training, to receive initial and recurrent instruction by means of lectures and films covering at least respiration, hypoxia, duration of consciousness at altitude when supplemental oxygen is not supplied, gas expansion, gas bubble formation, physical phenomena and incidents of decompression, and actual training and practice in the donning of the oxygen mask and operation of the oxygen equipment.

In lieu of the required films, the air carrier may use any other equivalent means of visual presentation which meets with the approval of a representative of the Administrator. One such means would be participation by flight crewmembers in actually observing other people undergoing high-altitude training in a low pressure chamber.

The rule also provides that each flight crewmember, prior to each flight, shall personally preflight his oxygen equipment to insure that the oxygen mask is functioning, fitted properly, and connected to appropriate supply terminals, and that the oxygen supply and pressure is adequate for use. Additionally, the rule requires that whenever it is necessary for one pilot to leave his station at the controls when operating above flight level 250, the remaining pilot shall don and use his oxygen mask until the other pilot has returned to his duty station.

Oxygen masks classified as quick-donning masks under the regulation in force prior to the effective date of this amendment will be considered as satisfactorily meeting the requirements prescribed by this amendment for quick-donning masks without further demonstration.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented. The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) requested that an industry-wide meeting be scheduled to review the subject of oxygen masks if the amendment adopted herein substantially differs from the intent of the proposals recommended by ALPA. Prior to publication of Draft Release 60–15, a conference was held by the Agency at which the ALPA and other representatives of the industry were afforded an opportunity to express their views and recommendations for the development of rules governing oxygen masks and their use. These views and recommendations were thoroughly considered in the preparation of proposals contained in Draft Release 60–15. In addition, interested persons also have been given an opportunity to submit written comments in response to Draft Release 60–15. All of the views and recommendations submitted in the conference and in response to the draft release have been carefully considered and evaluated in the preparation of this final rule. Moreover, as a result of this evaluation, many of these recommendations have been incorporated in the final rule. Accordingly, I find that additional rule making proceedings, as requested by the ALPA, are unnecessary for informed administrative action; and that this amendment should be adopted without further delay.

In consideration of the foregoing, Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 40, as amended) is amended as follows, effective March 3, 1961.

1. By amending § 40.203–T(c) to read as follows:

§ 40.203–T Supplemental oxygen for emergency descent and for first aid; turbine-powered airplanes with pressurized cabins.

* * * * *

(c) *Use of oxygen masks by flight crewmembers.* (1) When operating above flight level 250, each flight crewmember on flight deck duty shall be provided with an oxygen mask so designed that it is capable of being rapidly placed on the face from its ready position, properly secured, sealed, and supplying oxygen upon demand; and so designed that upon completion of the donning action the oxygen mask does not prevent the flight crewmember from being able immediately to communicate with other crewmembers over the airplane intercommunication system. When not being used above flight level 250, the oxygen mask shall be kept at all times in a con-

dition for ready use and so located as to be within the immediate reach at all times of the flight crewmember while at his duty station.

(2) When operating above flight level 250, one pilot at the controls of the airplane shall at all times wear and use an oxygen mask secured, sealed, and supplying oxygen: *Provided,* That the one pilot need not wear and use an oxygen mask while at or below flight level 350 if each flight crewmember on flight deck duty is provided with a quick-donning type of oxygen mask which the air carrier has demonstrated to the satisfaction of a representative of the Administrator is capable of being placed on the face from its ready position, properly secured, sealed, and supplying oxygen upon demand, with one hand and within 5 seconds. The air carrier shall also demonstrate that the donning of the mask can be accomplished without disturbing eye glasses and without delaying the flight crewmember from proceeding with his assigned emergency duties. Upon completion of the donning action, the oxygen mask shall not prevent the flight crewmember from being able immediately to communicate with other crewmembers over the airplane intercommunication system.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, when operating above flight level 250, if at any time it is necessary for one pilot to leave his station at the controls of the airplane for any reason, the remaining pilot at the controls shall don and use his oxygen mask until the other pilot has returned to his duty station.

(4) Prior to takeoff of a flight, each flight crewmember shall personally preflight his oxygen equipment to insure that the oxygen mask is functioning, fitted properly, connected to appropriate supply terminals, and that the oxygen supply and pressure is adequate for use.

2. By amending § 40.286 by adding a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 40.286 Initial crewmember emergency training.

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(c) All crewmembers performing duties on pressurized airplanes operated above flight level 250, shall, as a part of their approved emergency procedure training, receive instructions by means of lectures and films covering at least: Respiration, hypoxia, duration of consciousness at altitude when supplemental oxygen is not supplied, gas expansion, gas bubble formation, physical phenomena and incidents of decompression; and receive actual training and practice in the donning of the oxygen mask and operation of the oxygen equipment. In lieu of the required films, the air carrier may use any other equivalent means of visual presentation which, after demonstration, meets with the approval of a representative of the Administrator.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 604, 72 Stat. 752, 775, 778, 49 U.S.C. 1354(a), 1421, 1424)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 19, 1961.

E. R. QUESADA,
Administrator.

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