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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: AVIATION SECURITY: Certain Air Carriers and Commercial Operators - Security Programs and Other Requirements

1. **PURPOSE.** This document provides general information regarding the requirements of FAR Amdt. 121-85, "Aviation Security: Certain Air Carriers and Commercial Operators - Security Programs and Other Requirements," dated 29 February 1972. Additional information, guidance and recommended procedures are included in FAA Air Security Bulletin 72-1.*
2. **BACKGROUND.** There has developed an obvious need to institute more effective security measures to prevent or deter air piracy and other crimes which pose a threat to aviation safety. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, therefore, found it necessary to issue Amendment 121-85 and 121-86 to Part 121 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.
3. **REQUIREMENTS.** Section 121.538 requires that each air carrier as defined in Section 121.1(a)(1) or (2) and commercial operators engaging in intrastate common carriage covered by Section 121.7 to:
 - a. Adopt and put into use a screening system, acceptable to the Administrator, before 6 February 1972, that is designed to prevent or deter the carriage of explosive or incendiary device or weapon aboard aircraft in carry-on baggage or on or about the persons of passengers (except as provided in Section 121.585).
 - b. Immediately (9 March 1972) adopt and put into use its security program.
 - c. Prepare in writing and submit for approval by the Administrator its security program, including a passenger and carry-on baggage

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screening system and showing the procedures, facilities, or a combination thereof, that it uses or intends to use to support the program and that are designed to:

- (1) Prevent or deter unauthorized access to its aircraft;
- (2) Assure that baggage is checked in by a responsible agent or representative of the certificate holder;
- (3) Prevent cargo and checked baggage from being loaded aboard its aircraft unless handled in accordance with certificate holders' procedures; and
- (4) Notify the FAA Administrator upon receipt of information that an act or suspected act of aircraft piracy has been committed.

4. SECURITY PROGRAM SUBMISSION. Each certificate holder operating before 9 March 1972, is required to submit its security program to the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, no later than 8 May 1972. Certificate holders who obtain certificates under Part 121 after 8 March 1972, shall submit their programs at least 60 days before the date of intended operations.

a. It is suggested that security programs be submitted in loose leaf binders. The following subject headings are recommended:

- (1) Predeparture Screening.
- (2) Aircraft Ground Security.
- (3) Baggage Security.
- (4) Cargo Security.

b. Security programs should show clearly the security measures to be implemented at all stations, both domestic and foreign. A copy of each certificate holders internal instructions regarding requirements concerning bomb and air piracy threats and notification of the Administrator of acts or suspected acts of air piracy, should also be enclosed with the security program.

5. PROCEDURES. Minimum acceptable procedures are described in FAA Air Security Bulletin 72-1, subject: Aviation Security - Certain Air Carriers and Commercial Operators, dated 6 March 1972.

6. IMPLEMENTATION. The details of minimum passenger screening procedures to be implemented at air carrier served airports and for specific flights have been included in FAA Security Bulletin 72-1, subject: Aviation Security - Certain Air Carriers and Commercial Operators, dated 6 March 1972.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. As the result of the increased and dangerous threat to air safety posed by a rash of bomb threats and explosive devices being placed aboard air carrier aircraft, the effective date for implementation of the security measures required under FAR 121.538 has been changed. The newly established effective date is 9 March 1972. Ref FAR 121 Amdt 121-86.



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*NOTE: Distribution of FAA Air Security Bulletin 72-1 limited to affected air carriers and commercial operators.