

Cancelled

AC NO: 121-18

DATE: July 15, 1975



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: AVIATION SECURITY - CARRIAGE OF WEAPONS AND ESCORTED PERSONS

1. **PURPOSE.** This circular provides information and guidance for implementation of amendments to Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) under Part 121, on the Carriage of Weapons and Escorted Persons, published in the Federal Register on April 21, 1975, 40 F.R. 17551, Docket No. 13057; Amendment No. 121-118, and which becomes effective on July 20, 1975. The effective date of this amendment was advanced to July 20, 1975, to assure notification of interested parties, (Amendment 121-120). These amendments provide rules for the carriage of deadly or dangerous weapons and persons in the custody of law enforcement personnel aboard aircraft operated by FAR Part 121 certificate holders, Air Travel Clubs under FAR Part 123, and Air Taxi and Commercial Operators under FAR Part 135 (Section 135.2), when these certificate holders conduct operations utilizing large aircraft (over 12,500 pounds).
 2. **REFERENCE.** FAR Amendments No. 121-118 and 121-120 on the Carriage of Weapons and Escorted Persons, published in the Federal Register on April 21 and June 19, 1975, and Public Law 93-366 enacted by Congress on August 5, 1974. Office of Air Transportation Security Bulletin 70-1, Procedures for the Safe Transportation of Prisoners Aboard Aircraft, dated October 15, 1970, and Air Security Bulletin 71-1, Procedures for the Safe Carriage of Weapons Aboard Aircraft, dated February 24, 1971, have been incorporated into the provisions of this circular as appropriate and are no longer applicable.
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Initiated by: ACS-100

3. HOW TO GET THIS PUBLICATION.

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Washington, D.C. 20590

- b. Identify the publication in your order as FAA Advisory Circular 121-18, Aviation Security, Carriage of Weapons and Escorted Persons, dated July 15, 1975.

4. BACKGROUND.

- a. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has observed that the large number of hijacking incidents over the past few years have created a potentially dangerous situation with respect to persons legally carrying arms aboard aircraft as authorized by Section 121.585 of FAR Part 121. Persons legally armed often were not made aware of the presence of other legally armed persons on board the same aircraft. Moreover, these persons were frequently escorting prisoners, whose presence required additional security measures. In addition, there have been instances when inadequate identification procedures resulted in the carriage of deadly or dangerous weapons by persons not authorized to do so under this section of the regulations. Such inadequate procedures have also disrupted law enforcement missions in which the officer's anonymity was essential to its success, because an uninformed security officer or employee of an air carrier questioned the officer's authority to carry a weapon, after he had already been cleared through the air carrier's security procedures.
- b. In an effort to eliminate the above problems and to achieve standardization of procedures in the carriage of weapons and the air transportation of escorted persons, including their escorts, a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on the "Carriage of Weapons and Escorted Persons" was published in the Federal Register on July 27, 1973, (Docket No. 13057; Notice No. 73-21). After considering the comments in response to the NPRM and the subsequent enactment by Congress of Public Law 93-366 on August 5, 1974, which among other things, amended Section 902 (1) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, having to do with the carriage of weapons aboard aircraft, FAA issued FAR Amendment 121-118 on April 12, 1975.

5. APPLICABILITY. The requirements under FAR Amendment 121-118 apply to the following certificate holders:
- a. Part 121 of the FARs - Domestic Air Carriers, e.g., Allegheny Airlines, Piedmont Airlines, et al.
 - Flag Air Carriers, e.g., Pan American World Airways, Inc., Trans World Airlines, Inc., et al.
 - Commercial Operators, e.g., Fairways Corporation, Span East Airlines, Inc., et al.
 - Supplemental Air Carriers, e.g., Capital International Airways, Trans International Airlines, et al.
 - Scheduled Intrastate Commercial Operators, e.g., Air California, Pacific Southwest Airlines, Inc., et al.
 - Scheduled Cargo Only, e.g., Airlift International, Seaboard World Airlines, Inc., et al.
 - b. Part 135 (Section 135.2) - Air Taxi Operators and Commercial Operators, e.g., Ransome Air Inc., Hansa Jet Corporation, et al.
 - c. Part 123 - Air Travel Clubs, e.g., Emerald Shillelagh Chowder and Marching Society, Inc., Jet Set Travel Club, et al.
 - d. The amendment also applies to each person who is on board an aircraft being operated by the above identified certificate holders.
6. DISCUSSION. Because of the significant changes and requirements to be met by certificate holders and those affected by these amendments (as adopted in FAR Amendment 121-118) under Part 121, (Parts 123, 135) further explanation is considered necessary. The affected amendments are identified and discussed below in the order in which they appear in the regulations.

- a. New subparagraph 121.538(c)(4) recognizes the fact that there are certain persons authorized to carry weapons aboard the certificate holders aircraft. Certificate holders should therefore include this recognition in their security programs and/or manuals or documents. They should include procedures for the handling of these persons as well as to insure that their personnel are trained and familiar with the requirement.
- b. Amended Section 121.575(b) prohibits certificate holders from serving any alcoholic beverage to any person aboard its aircraft who appears to be intoxicated; to any person(s) who is in custody and being escorted in accordance with new Section 121.584; and to those persons having a weapon accessible to them while aboard the aircraft.
- c. New Section 121.584 provides for the carriage of persons in the custody of law enforcement personnel. It specifies certain requirements which must be met before and during such carriage.
- d. New Section 121.585(a) specifies who and under what conditions persons (such as law enforcement personnel and others) may carry deadly or dangerous weapons aboard aircraft operated by these certificate holders. It also clarifies the fact that officials or employees of political subdivisions of states may likewise carry weapons. However, it restricts the carriage of weapons by any person to only those occasions where it is necessary for an authorized person to have a weapon accessible in connection with the performance of his duty during that period from the time he would otherwise have checked it until such time it would have been returned to him after deplaning. In addition, a person who is authorized to have a weapon by the certificate holder and the Administrator of the FAA is required to have successfully completed a course of training in the use of firearms acceptable to the FAA Administrator.
- e. Amended Section 121.585(b) sets forth specific requirements to be met before any passenger may be permitted by the certificate holder to carry a deadly or dangerous weapon in checked baggage. It requires the passenger to notify the certificate holder before checking the baggage that the weapon is in the baggage. The passenger must assure that the weapon is unloaded and the baggage in which the weapon is carried is locked. The passenger checking the baggage must retain the key or lock combination and the baggage must be carried in an area other than the flight crew compartment where it is inaccessible to passengers.

- f. New Section 121.585(c) prohibits any person having a deadly or dangerous weapon accessible to him to drink any alcoholic beverage while aboard an aircraft.
7. PROCEDURES. Persons authorized to carry weapons fall into two groups. Those in the first group are specified in FAR 121.585(a)(1)(i). They are Federal, state, municipal, county, and political subdivision officials and employees. Also, included in this group are military persons that need to carry weapons during flight. These persons are subsequently identified in this circular as Law Enforcement Officials (LEOs). The second group specified by FAR 121.585(a)(1)(ii) are persons such as domestic and foreign guards (Brinks, Pinkerton, etc.) and subsequently referred to in this circular as persons other than LEOs. An individual in either group must need to have a weapon accessible in the performance of official duty during the period from the time he would otherwise have placed the weapon in checked baggage until such time it would have been returned to him after deplaning.
- a. Procedures for LEOs. For the purpose of this circular, LEOs are divided into two groups, Federal Law Enforcement Officials and Law Enforcement Officials other than Federal Law Enforcement Officials.
- (1) Procedures for Federal Law Enforcement Officials. Each Federal law enforcement agency that anticipates a need for an authorized employee of that agency to carry a dangerous weapon in the cabin compartment of an air carrier aircraft should submit to the FAA, Civil Aviation Security Service, Attention: Air Operations Security Division, ACS-100, a copy of their policy under which employees under their jurisdiction are required to be armed during flight. FAA will retain a copy of the policy for each Federal agency. A Federal law enforcement official who is authorized within the established policy of his employing agency to carry his weapon aboard an air carrier's aircraft is required to notify the carrier involved of the flight on which he intends to be armed in accordance with the procedures set forth in subparagraph d. The procedures of subparagraph d also apply to military persons that need to be armed during flight.
- (2) Procedures for Other Law Enforcement Officials. Each officer with a requirement to carry a dangerous weapon in the cabin compartment of an air carrier aircraft should provide a letter to the air carrier that specifies the circumstance(s) that create the need to be armed during the flight(s) being utilized.

This letter should be on the letterhead of the jurisdiction employing the officer and signed by a supervisory official. Such letter should specify the trip itinerary and include a designated period during which the need to be armed in flight will exist. The procedures of subparagraph d also apply.

- b. Procedures for Persons other than LEOs. (The procedures in this paragraph do not apply to armed escorts for foreign dignitaries, when those escorts are not U.S. citizens. Procedures for the authorization of those escorts are contained in paragraph 7c of this circular). Before Amendment 121-118, FAR 121.585(b) provided for the authorization by the certificate holder of persons to carry weapons in flight. FAR 121.585, as amended by Amendment 121-118, provides that such persons must also be authorized by the Administrator. Authorizations previously issued by certificate holders expire July 19, 1975. Effective July 20, 1975, the Administrator may issue such authorizations when the persons to be authorized:
- (1) Have satisfactorily completed, within the preceding twelve months a course of training in the use of firearms acceptable to the Administrator. Courses of training conducted by or approved by law enforcement agencies (Federal, state or local) are acceptable to the Administrator.
 - (2) Provide documentary evidence to the certificate holder that indicates satisfactory course completion such as a certificate of completion signed by a Supervisory law enforcement official of the jurisdiction in which the training was conducted.
 - (3) Have approval of the certificate holder and be recommended by name by the certificate holder to the FAA Principal Security Inspector (PSI) assigned. The PSI will review the documentation and determine if the need to carry arms is justified. Approval(s) will be granted on a case by case basis for a period of time not greater than six months. The PSI will notify the carrier. Where no PSI is assigned, e.g., travel clubs, the appropriate Civil Aviation Security Service representative of the FAA region having geographical jurisdiction will handle the approval request. A copy of such notification should be provided ACS-1.

The remaining procedures set forth below in paragraph d and e apply.

- c. Procedures for Armed Escorts Other than U.S. Citizens for Foreign Dignitaries. Occasionally, foreign dignitaries desire to travel on U.S. air carriers accompanied by armed escort provided by foreign government involved. The procedure for obtaining FAA authorization as required by FAR 121.585(a)(1)(ii) for these escorts is for these individuals to submit thru their government the names and itinerary of the traveler and all escorting personnel involved to our Department of State. The FAA may issue authorization for escorts who have been trained in the use of firearms within the preceding twelve months. The Department of State must be advised of such training and will in turn, notify Washington Headquarters (ACS-20) specifying that the escort has the training, the travel is official travel and provide the names and itinerary of all individuals involved. ACS-20 will complete the necessary coordination between the FAA, the carrier and the Department of State.
- d. An individual to be armed during flight should:
- (1) Be authorized to have the weapon.
 - (2) Notify the certificate holder he needs to have the weapon accessible in connection with the performance of duty during the period from the time the individual would otherwise have checked it until the time it would have been returned to the individual after deplaning.
 - (3) Notify the certificate holder of the flight on which he intends to have a weapon at least one hour prior to flight departure or in an emergency as soon as practicable recognizing emergency situations, on occasion, occur.
 - (4) Identify himself to the certificate holder by presenting credentials that include his clear full face picture, his signature, and the signature of an authorizing official of his service or the official seal of his service.
 - (5) Not drink any alcoholic beverage while aboard an aircraft operated by a certificate holder.
- e. When a certificate holder carries individuals authorized to be armed the certificate holder should ensure that:
- (1) Prior to boarding, the armed individual is advised of its procedures for the carriage of a dangerous or deadly weapon aboard its aircraft. This information may be provided on printed card(s).

- (2) The identity of the armed person is known to each law enforcement officer and each employee of the certificate holder responsible for security during the boarding of the aircraft. Discretion should be employed to protect the LEOs identity.
- (3) Appropriate crewmembers have been notified of the location of each armed person aboard the aircraft. In the event more than one armed person is aboard a flight, each armed person should be notified of the seat location of the other armed person(s).
- (4) No alcoholic beverages are served to armed persons or persons in their custody.

8. PROCEDURES FOR LEOs ESCORTING PERSONS IN THEIR CUSTODY ABOARD AIR CARRIER AIRCRAFT (NOT APPLICABLE TO ARMED ESCORTS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS). Under new Section 121.584, there are certain specific conditions which must be met by certificate holders and those LEOs who are escorting persons in their custody by air transportation. These are procedures which are in addition to those already incorporated as a part of this circular for LEOs. These procedures are not applicable where armed escorts are escorting foreign dignitaries or other persons under protective escort.

a. An LEO who has in his custody a person being transported by air transportation is required to:

- (1) Notify the certificate holder at least one hour, or in an emergency as soon as practicable, before departure of the identity of the escorted person and the flight on which he will be carried.
- (2) Notify the certificate holder as to whether the escorted person is considered dangerous by the government entity having custody over him.
- (3) Assure the certificate holder that the person in his custody does not have on or about his person or property any article that could be used as a deadly or dangerous weapon and would be accessible to him while aboard the aircraft.
- (4) Be equipped with adequate restraining devices to be used in the event that he determines that restraint of the person in his custody is necessary.
- (5) Assure that the escorted person is at all times kept under his surveillance.

- (6) If the certificate holder has been notified that the person in his custody is considered dangerous by the government entity having custody of him, then the LEO must be accompanied by at least one other LEO.
 - (7) Be familiar with the requirements of the certificate holder.
- b. Certificate holders who accept for transportation persons in the custody of LEO(s) should:
- (1) Board the LEO(s) with person in his custody before all other enplaning passengers board, and deplane them after all other passengers have left the aircraft.
 - (2) Have these persons seated in the rearmost passenger seats that are neither located in any lounge area, nor located next to or directly across from an aircraft exit.
 - (3) Assure that at least one escort sits between the person in his custody and any aisle.
 - (4) Carry no more than one person who it has been notified is considered dangerous, and his escorts, on an aircraft carrying other passengers.
 - (5) Assure no food, beverages, or metal eating utensils are provided an escorted person unless authorized by the escort.
 - (6) Assure neither the LEOs, nor the person in their custody are served, nor may they drink any alcoholic beverage while aboard the certificate holder's aircraft.
9. CARRIAGE OF DEADLY OR DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN CHECKED BAGGAGE. Certificate holders may not knowingly permit passengers to carry deadly or dangerous weapons in checked baggage unless the passenger notifies the certificate holder before checking the baggage that the weapon in checked baggage is unloaded, the baggage is locked and only the passenger has the key or lock combination thereof. Checked baggage containing dangerous weapons must be carried in an area other than the flight crew compartment that is inaccessible to passengers. The topside baggage bin on F-27/227 aircraft is considered acceptable for storage provided the bin is secured.

10. ACTION.

- a. Organizations, agencies and other persons affected by FAR Amendment 121-118 may obtain assistance and further information from the FAA Civil Aviation Security Service, the appropriate regional Air Transportation Security Division, or the appropriate Air Transportation Security Field Office having jurisdiction of the geographical areas involved. Scheduled air carriers should call upon assigned FAA Principal Security Inspectors (PSIs) where assistance and additional information is needed.
- b. Alleged violations should be reported to FAA Regional Air Transportation Security Field Offices having geographical responsibility for investigation and disposition as appropriate. A list of these offices is enclosed as Appendix 1.



JAMES F. RUDOLPH

Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety

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APPENDIX 1

REGIONS

FAA ALASKAN REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, AAL-90
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
PHONE: 907-265-4477

FAA CENTRAL REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ACE-90
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
PHONE: 816-374-3901

FAA EUROPE, AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST REGION
(PROPOSED)

FAA EASTERN REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, AEA-90
Federal Building #111
JFK International Airport
Jamaica, New York 11430
PHONE: 212-995-9520

ATSFOs

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - ANC ATSFO
P. O. Box 6478
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
PHONE: 907-265-4632

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - MKC ATSFO
P.O. Box 20003
Kansas City, Missouri 64195
PHONE: 816-243-3820

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - STL ATSFO
Lambert Field
P.O. Box 10306
St. Louis, Missouri 63145
PHONE: 314-622-8100

Air Transportation Security
Field Office -BAL ATSFO
Pier C, Friendship International
Airport
Baltimore, Maryland 21240
PHONE: 301-962-2795

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - DCA ATSFO
Room 11, Commuter Terminal
WNA, Washington, D.C. 20001
PHONE: 703-557-0265

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - EWR ATSFO
% Butler Aviation, Hangar #12
Newark Airport
Newark, New Jersey 07114
PHONE: 201-645-3701

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REGIONS

ATSFOs

FAA EASTERN REGION (Continued)

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - IAD ATSFO
Box 17174
Dulles International Airport
Washington, D.C. 20041
PHONE: 703-557-0266

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - JFK ATSFO
Building #197
JFK International Airport
Jamaica, New York 11430
PHONE: 212-995-7080

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - LGA ATSFO
United Airlines Hangar #2
Room 322, La Guardia Airport
Flushing, New York 11371
PHONE: 212-995-2860

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - PIT ATSFO
P.O. Box 12406
Greater Pittsburgh International
Airport
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15231
PHONE: 412-644-2845

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - PHL ATSFO
% TWA Hangar, Room 310
Philadelphia International
Airport
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19153
PHONE: 215-597-4925

FAA SOUTHWEST REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ASW-90
P. O. Box 1689
Fort Worth, Texas 76101
PHONE: 817-624-6217

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - DFW ATSFO
P. O. Box 2506, GSW Airport
Fort Worth, Texas 76125
PHONE: 817-283-4401

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - IAH ATSFO
P. O. Box 60366
Houston, Texas 77060
PHONE: 713-226-5475

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REGIONS

ATSFOs

FAA SOUTHWEST REGION (Continued)

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - MSY ATSFO
P. O. Box 20022
New Orleans, Louisiana 70141
PHONE: 504-589-2993

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - SAT ATSFO
P. O. Box 16052
San Antonio, Texas 78246
PHONE: 512-225-4836

FAA NORTHWEST REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ANW-90
Boeing Field
Seattle, Washington 98108
PHONE: 206-767-2555

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - SEA ATSFO
Room 201, Administration Building
SEA-TAC International Airport
Seattle, Washington 98158
PHONE: 206-767-2580

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - PDX ATSFO
Lower Level Concourse L
7000 NE Airport Way
Portland, Oregon 97218
PHONE: 503-221-3050

FAA GREAT LAKES REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, AGL-90
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
PHONE: 312-694-4411

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - ORD ATSFO
Room 158
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
PHONE: 312-694-2280

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - CLE ATSFO
Cleveland Hopkins
International Airport
Room 104, Terminal Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
PHONE: 216-522-4031

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REGIONS

ATSFOs

GREAT LAKES REGION (Continued)

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - DTW ATSFO
L. C. Smith, South Terminal
Mezzanine
Detroit Metropolitan Airport
Detroit, Michigan 48242
PHONE: 313-941-3262

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - MSP ATSFO
Room C-251, Main Terminal
Building
Minneapolis/St. Paul
International Airport
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111
PHONE: 612-725-3410

FAA WESTERN REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, AWE-90
P. O. Box 92007
Worldway Postal Center
Los Angeles, California 90009
PHONE: 213-536-6325

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - LAX ATSFO
P. O. Box 91176
Worldway Postal Center
Los Angeles, California 90009
PHONE: 213-536-6620

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - SFO ATSFO
Room 526, International Airport
San Francisco, California 94128
PHONE: 415-692-2492

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - LAS ATSFO
P. O. Box 11169
McCarran International Airport
Las Vegas, Nevada 89111
PHONE: 702-385-6390

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - SAN ATSFO
% Airport Managers Office
San Diego International Airport
3665 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101
PHONE: 714-293-5528

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REGIONS

ATSFOs

FAA WESTERN REGION (Continued)

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - TUC ATSFO
Tower Building
Tucson International Airport
Tucson, Arizona 85706
PHONE: 602-792-6389

FAA NEW ENGLAND REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ANE-90
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, Massachusetts 01803
PHONE: 617-273-7352

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - BOS ATSFO
Logan International Airport
East Boston, Massachusetts 02128
PHONE: 617-223-4595

FAA SOUTHERN REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ASO-90
P. O. Box 20636
Atlanta, Georgia 30320
PHONE: 404-526-7271

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - MIA ATSFO
P. O. Box 59-2336
Miami, Florida 33159
PHONE: 305-871-2743

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - SJU ATSFO
% Air Traffic Control
Tower, Isla Verde
Puerto Rico International Airport
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00913
PHONE: 809-791-3582

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - TPA ATSFO
P. O. Box 22541
Tampa International Airport
Tampa, Florida 33622
PHONE: 813-228-2570

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - ATL ATSFO
1568 Willingham Drive
Suite D. Room 111
College Park, Georgia 30337
PHONE: 404-526-7871

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REGIONS

ATSFOs

FAA ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, ARM-90
Park Hill Station
P. O. Box 7213
Denver, Colorado 80207
PHONE: 303-837-3411

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - DEN ATSFO
Room 444, Terminal Building
Stapleton International Airport
Denver, Colorado 80207
PHONE: 303-837-3182

FAA PACIFIC - ASIA REGION
Air Transportation Security
Division, APC-90
P. O. Box 4009
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
PHONE: 808-955-0460

Air Transportation Security
Field Office - HNL ATSFO
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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