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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: SECURITY MEASURES AND PASSENGER SCREENING FOR
SCHEDULED AIR TAXI COMMERCIAL OPERATORS (ATCO)

1. **PURPOSE.** This circular advises interested ATCOs of the availability of operations specifications whereby the subject ATCOs may implement security procedures to improve their security posture and facilitate passenger operation. It also details alternative measures which are available to facilitate passenger operation consistent with existing security requirements for those ATCOs who prefer not to formally implement security procedures.
2. **REFERENCE.** Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) Part 135.
3. **DISCUSSION.** Regulatory requirements applicable to scheduled air carriers and commercial operators conducting intrastate operations utilizing large aircraft are set forth in FAR Part 121. FAR Part 107 sets forth the requirement for law enforcement support of passenger screening procedures by Part 121 certificate holders. Regulatory requirements applicable to the subject ATCOs are found in FAR Part 135. The effects of security programs applicable to FAR 121 operators are well recognized and have generated a desire by several ATCOs to implement compatible security measures to improve their security posture and facilitate their operations especially where the ATCOs passengers are "thru" passengers connecting with FAR 121 carriers. Air carriers operating under FAR 121 are well standardized, therefore, air carrier security program requirements can be and are set forth in FAR Part 121. ATCOs operating under Part 135, however, are more flexible, their operations more varied and as a result they are not so well standardized. In an effort to provide ATCOs flexibility in meeting FAA security program requirements by allowing these operators that would like to do so to have security programs sufficient to permit them to discharge their passengers into secure concourses, the following methods may be used to accomplish this need:

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- a. Air taxi and commuter airline passengers may gain access to a secure concourse upon deplanement if they have been screened in accordance with approved procedures as a result of having enplaned through an established secure concourse.
- b. Access to secure concourses may also be permitted ATCO passengers when they are screened in accordance with approved security procedures upon deplanement.
- c. A certificated air carrier with an approved security program may amend its program to include provisions for screening passengers for an ATCO at certain selected airports. Security standards must be the same as those for their Part 121 operations (compliance responsibility to rest upon the Part 121 operator).
- d. Access to secure concourses upon deplanement may also be granted when ATCO passengers are escorted through a secure concourse by a law enforcement officer(s) or a designated representative(s) of the airport or the air carrier having security responsibility for the secure concourse or gate utilized.
- e. In addition, ATCOs desiring to implement their own security program may do so by obtaining an appropriate amendment to their operations specifications in accordance with guidance provided in this Circular. The basis for these specifications are set forth in FAR sections 135.13 and 135.19.

As experience is gained and new methods are developed in carrying out passenger screening activities for ATCOs, consideration will be given to including these new methods as additional standards that may be used by ATCOs in implementing passenger screening programs.

4. APPLICABILITY. It is anticipated that ATCO certificate holders conducting the following scheduled passenger operations in accordance with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Economic Regulations Part 298 may desire amendment to their operations specifications to establish security programs:
 - a. The carrying of persons and/or property by aircraft pursuant to an interline traffic agreement with an air carrier holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CC & N) issued by CAB; or
 - b. The carrying of persons and/or property by aircraft for compensation or hire in accordance with a published or advertised schedule of departure times, arrival times or both; or

- c. The carrying of persons and/or property by aircraft for compensation or hire with a frequency of at least five (5) round trips per week between two or more points on the same day or days in accordance with a published flight schedule which specifies the times, days of the week and places between which such flights will be performed.
5. ACTION. Operations specifications authorizing the use of an approved security program may be issued to ATCOs on request in accordance with section 135.19. ATCOs desiring to implement an approved security program should contact the local district office to obtain further information.
6. PROCEDURES.
- a. ATCOs desiring to implement an approved security program should submit their security program in quadruplicate (original and 3 copies) to the local FAA ATSF0. The ATCO should contact the nearest ATSF0 for assistance in developing its program and any possible assistance in arranging for the required law enforcement support. The ATSF0 will review the program to determine if it meets minimum acceptable standards for approval. When the program is approved, it should be submitted together with an application to amend the ATCOs operations specifications in accordance with section 135.19. The FAA District Office having jurisdiction may issue the operations specifications as shown in Appendix 1.
- b. It should be noted that while a request for amendment of operations specifications by ATCO certificate holders is voluntary, operations specifications issued under Part 135 are regulatory requirements under section 135.9 and may be amended or rescinded only in accordance with section 135.19 of Part 135.



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON

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OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS

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SCHEDULED OPERATORS - FAR 135

Part - Security Program and Procedures

1. Authority for Issuance. These operations specifications and amendments thereto are issued under the provisions of sections 135.13 and 135.19 of Part 135.
2. The ATCO shall have and maintain an approved security program for the guidance of its pilots and other operations personnel.
3. The ATCO shall conduct operations in accordance with its approved security program. That program must include at least procedures for:
 - a. 100% passenger and carry-on baggage screening;
 - b. the presence of a law enforcement officer during screening and boarding;
 - c. determining the contents of any cargo to be carried or the identity of the shipper, and protection against tampering and introduction of explosives;
 - d. the prevention or deterrence of unauthorized access to its aircraft;
 - e. response to bomb threats; and
 - f. notifying FAA of hijacking attempts.
4. Having met and utilized the above requirements at

(Airport(s))

(Airport(s) Name)

_____ is authorized to deplane

passengers into secure concourse(s) to facilitate transfer of its passengers connecting with FAR Part 121 air carrier flights and for other purposes.

Effective date _____