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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

SUBJECT: AIRPORT OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS

1. PURPOSE.

- a. This advisory circular sets forth guidelines that will assist airport operators in developing airport operations specifications in compliance with the requirements of the amended Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 139 concerning airports serving CAB-certificated air carriers conducting unscheduled operations or operations with small aircraft. The circular also provides guidance on submission of an application for a Limited Airport Operating Certificate.
- b. This advisory circular provides guidance in developing Airport Operations Specifications and is not to be confused with Advisory Circular 150/5280-1A, which provides guidance in developing an Airport Operations Manual.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139, Certification and Operations: Land Airports Serving CAB-Certificated Air Carriers, may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Make check or money order for \$3.00; plus \$.75 for foreign mailing, payable to the Superintendent of Documents; no C.O.D. orders are accepted.
- b. Other Advisory Circulars are listed in Appendix 4 as reference material under the individual areas to which they apply.

3. ADDITIONAL COPIES. Copies of this advisory circular can be obtained from the Department of Transportation, Publication Section TAD 443.1, Washington, D.C. 20591.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE OF THE AIRPORT OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS.

a. The Airport Operations Specifications provide a means for airports serving CAB-certificated air carriers conducting unscheduled operations or operations with small aircraft to report to the Federal Aviation Administration their eligibility for a limited airport operating certificate based on the following:

- (1) The conditions of the airport relative to those items required for certification eligibility in FAR Part 139, as amended; and
- (2) The methods of operation that are expected to be used to meet the continuing requirements of airport certification.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THIS ADVISORY CIRCULAR. To provide guidance for submitting the data required in the Airport Operations Specifications to meet the certification requirements.3. BACKGROUND OF THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

a. The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 was amended on May 21, 1970, by adding Section 612, paragraph (a) of which provides: "(a) The Administrator is empowered to issue airport certificates to airports serving air carriers certificated by the Civil Aeronautics Board and to establish minimum safety standards for the operation of such airports." The FAA issued rules for airport certification in FAR Part 139.

b. Section 612(b), as amended on November 27, 1971, by Public Law 92-174, provides: "(b) Any person desiring to operate an airport serving air carriers certificated by the Civil Aeronautics Board may file with the Administrator an application for an airport operating certificate. If the Administrator finds, after investigation, that such person is properly and adequately equipped and able to conduct a safe operation in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the rules, regulations, and standards prescribed thereunder, he shall issue an airport operating certificate to such person. Each certificate shall prescribe such terms, conditions, and limitations as are reasonably necessary to assure safety in air transportation. Unless the Administrator determines that it would be contrary to the public interest, such terms, conditions, and limitation shall include but not be limited to terms, conditions, and limitations relating to the operation and maintenance of adequate safety equipment, including firefighting and rescue equipment capability of rapid access to any portion of the airport used for the landing, takeoff, or surface maneuvering of aircraft."

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- c. An amendment to Section 610 of the Act further provides that it shall be unlawful "For any person to operate an airport serving air carriers certificated by the Civil Aeronautics Board without an airport operating certificate, or in violation of the terms of any such certificates."
- d. Section 139.12 was added to FAR Part 139 in April 1973 to provide for certification of airports and heliports which on May 20, 1973, served CAB-certificated air carriers conducting only unscheduled operations or operations with small airplanes. Airport operators who operate such airports and made application in accordance with Section 139.12 have been issued Provisional Airport Operating Certificates which were effective until December 15, 1974. At the time of issuance of Section 139.12, it was anticipated that the certification of the airports included by this amendment would be accomplished in accordance with the certification and operating requirements generally applicable to air carrier airports serving scheduled operations under Part 139.
- e. It now appears that compliance with the generally applicable certification and operating requirements is, in many cases, not feasible and impracticable, and that requiring full compliance with Part 139 in such cases would be contrary to the public interest. In many such cases provisions should be made for certification of these airports on an individual basis, based on an investigation of operating circumstances and a subsequent finding made by the Administrator that the particular airport is properly and adequately equipped to conduct safe operations for the kind of air carrier operations to be conducted. In view of this, Section 139.12a was added to the regulation on August 15, 1974, and provides for issuing limited certificates to airports serving only unscheduled operations, or operations with small aircraft.

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL

4. APPLICABILITY. Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139, as amended, applies to land airports/heliports serving air carriers that hold certificates of public convenience and necessity issued by the Civil Aeronautics Board and that operate into those airports/heliports.
5. INSPECTION PROCEDURES.
 - a. The airport operator, when inspecting his airport to gather the data for the Operations Specifications to be used by the FAA, in determining his eligibility for certification, should consider all of the items listed under Content, Chapter 3, of this circular.
 - b. The FAA will, after investigation of the airport operator's proposal, make its determination as to whether the certification requirements have been met. The investigation for certification may include inspections prior to issuing a limited airport operating certificate. The FAA personnel may perform follow-up inspections at any other time to insure continued compliance.
6. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION.
 - a. Preliminary Discussions. Preliminary informal discussions between the airport operator and FAA personnel are encouraged in order to assist in the preparation of the Operations Specifications and the application form, and to explain the requirements of Section 139.12a of FAR 139 as they relate to a limited airport operating certificate. Procedures for inspecting the airport may also be reviewed.
 - b. Submission of Application. An application for issuance of a limited certificate may be made on FAA Form 5280.1, Airport Operating Certificate Application, or by a formal letter and submitted to the Airports Division of the regional office in whose area the applicant proposes to establish or has established his airport. The application form, obtainable from Regional Airports Division Offices, is shown in Appendix 2, to this advisory circular. The FAA, after receiving the application and operations specifications, will then review

the submission and, if necessary, contact the applicant to make whatever arrangements are needed to complete, correct, or clarify the submitted material. In the remarks section "D" of FAA Form 5280-1, Appendix 2, the following should be inserted - This application for limited certificate includes an Airport Operations Specifications in lieu of the Airport Operations Manual.

- c. Distribution of Application and Airport Operations Specifications. The original and three copies of the application along with one copy of the Airport Operations Specifications will be submitted to the appropriate Regional Airports Division Office. The receiving office will acknowledge receipt and complete distribution as necessary. The copy of the operations specifications will remain in the appropriate FAA Airports Division Office.

7. LIMITED AIRPORT OPERATING CERTIFICATE.

- a. A Limited Airport Operating Certificate is issued when the Administrator finds, after investigation, that the Airport Operations Specification submitted by the applicant provides for appropriate procedures to support the type of aircraft and frequency of operations anticipated at the airport. If it is found that some requirements are not met, the applicant is advised in writing by the FAA of the reasons for not issuing a limited certificate.
- b. The Airport Operations Specifications should contain such items as the name of the airport, the operator, the type and frequency of air carrier operations, a description of the landing area to be maintained, and any other item(s) the FAA Administrator determines is necessary to cover a particular situation. Upon approval of the operations specifications, the Limited Airport Operating Certificate will be issued by the Region.

CHAPTER 3. AIRPORT OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS FORMAT

9. CONTENT. Under Section 139.12(a) of FAR Part 139, the Airport Operations Specifications should include:
1. Name and address of the airport.
 2. Name and address of the owner and operator of the airport.
 3. The type and frequency of air carrier operations the airport serves or is expected to serve. The type of aircraft and the number of operations may be stated as weekly, monthly, or annually.
 4. Landing area or runway dimensions to be maintained at the airport. Describe the type of surface and dimensions of the landing areas.
 5. Strength and Condition of Air Operations Areas to be Maintained at the Airport. The strength of the landing areas may be provided by either stating the single wheel loading (or gear loading in case of multiple wheel gears) or providing a statement that the operating surfaces are adequate to support the type(s) of aircraft expected to be served at the anticipated frequency of service. The condition of the landing areas should be described by listing and locating defects or distressed areas such as roughness, unevenness, open cracks, loose surface materials, etc. When soil, moisture and weather conditions conducive to detrimental frost action exist, an adjustment to the evaluation should be considered.
 6. Marking and lighting of air operations areas and obstructions to be maintained at the airport. If appropriate, the type(s) of runway markings, such as basic, non precision instrument, displaced thresholds and obstruction lights, and other appropriate markings as listed in Advisory Circular 150/5340-1D.
 7. Fire Fighting and rescue equipment and service to be provided. List the type of equipment and the quantity of agent available. If the service is provided from off airport property, it should be indicated who will provide the service, and that there is a procedure to notify the provider of this service. If the airport is unattended, the fire protection equipment which is carried aboard the aircraft in accordance with other regulations may be included as a method of providing adequate fire protection.
 8. Means for wind direction determination to be provided. Indicate the type of wind indicator, i.e. wind sock, wind tee or any other suitable means.

9. Means for safety inspection of the airport. Describe the procedures for inspecting the airport in support of the air carrier operation. If the airport is unattended and the inspection is to be accomplished by an aerial inspection, the procedures for notifying the person to make the inspection should be included.
10. Any other item that the Administrator determines is necessary to cover a particular situation.

A suggested Airport Operations Specifications format is shown in Appendix 1.

10. REFERENCE. A list of Advisory Circulars to assist the applicant in the overall operations of his airport is provided in Appendix 4.

AIRPORT OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS

Date _____

1. Airport Name/Address/Location _____

2. Airport Owner/Address _____

Airport Operator / Address _____

3. Type/Frequency Air Carrier Operations _____

CONDITIONS TO BE MAINTAINED

4. Landing Area/Runway Dimensions _____

5. Strength/Condition of Air Operations Areas _____

6. Markings of Air Operations Areas _____

Lighting of Air Operations Areas _____

Obstruction Lighting _____

7. Fire/Rescue Equipment/Service Provided _____

8. Wind Direction Indicator _____

9. Method of Safety Inspection _____

10. Appropriate item (s) necessary to cover a particular situation. _____

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AIRPORT OPERATING CERTIFICATE APPLICATION		TYPE OF SUBMISSION ("X" One) ("X" One or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Airport <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment } FOR <input type="checkbox"/> Heliport <input type="checkbox"/> Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Stolport <input type="checkbox"/> Seaplane Base	Form Approved, OMB No. 04-R0195 <hr/> FAA USE ONLY SITE NO.
Complete all sections of the form as indicated. Submit original and three copies of the form and one copy of the Airport Operations Manual to the headquarters of the appropriate FAA Regional Office.			
A. LOCATION OF AIRPORT			
1. Name of Airport	2. County	3. State/ZIP Code	4. Airport is— (Answer both) a. State Licensed <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO b. State Inspected <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5. Address (Number and street, P.O. Box, etc.)	6. Coordinates LATITUDE " LONGITUDE " "		
B. OPERATED BY ("X" All applicable boxes in Items 1 and 2)			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Port Authority <input type="checkbox"/> FAA			2. Joint Use Airport is— <input type="checkbox"/> Mil./Civ. Joint Use <input type="checkbox"/> Civ./Mil. Joint Use
3. Name of Owner		Address (Number and street, city, State, ZIP code)	
4. Name of Manager/Operator		Address (Number and street, city, State, ZIP code)	
C. OPERATIONAL DATA			
1. Firefighting Equipment ("X" Current Index) <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E		2. Currently Equipped for IFR Operations ("X" One) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Air Carriers Currently Served (TWA, UAL, etc.)			
4. Air Carrier Aircraft Currently Served (727, DC-9, etc.)			
D. REMARKS (Continue on attached sheet, if necessary)			
E. CERTIFICATION			
This application, which includes the Airport Operations Manual submitted as a part of the application, is submitted in order to obtain an Airport Operating Certificate. I certify, under penalty of 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001 and other applicable provisions of law, that the statements and information in the application form and manual are complete and true to the best of my knowledge.			
Signature of Applicant (Typed and signed)		Address (No. and street, city, State, ZIP code)	
Title		Telephone No. (Incl. area code)	Date Submitted
FAA USE ONLY		SITE NO.	
1. APPLICATION RECEIVED	DATE	2. PROPOSED FOR INSPECTION	DATE
3. INSPECTION COMPLETED	DATE	SIGNATURE AND TITLE	
4. RECOMMENDED FOR <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATE <input type="checkbox"/> DIS-APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> MODIFICATION	DATE	SIGNATURE AND TITLE	
5. REMARKS			

FAA Form 5280-1 (6-72) SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS EDITION

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

AIRPORT OPERATING CERTIFICATE

This certifies that

has met the requirements of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, and the rules, regulations, and standards prescribed thereunder for the issuance of this certificate, and is hereby authorized to operate as a certificated airport in accordance with and subject to said Act and the rules, regulations, and standards prescribed thereunder, including but not limited to 14 C.F.R. Part 139, and any additional terms, conditions, and limitations contained herein or in the currently approved Airport Operations Specifications on file with the FAA. At least the level of safety at the airport as of the effective date of this certificate will be maintained.

LIMITED

This certificate is not transferable and, unless sooner surrendered, suspended or revoked, shall continue in effect.

Effective date:

Issued at:



By Direction of the Administrator

SIGNATURE

TITLE

7. TRAFFIC AND WIND DIRECTION INDICATORS

- a. AC 150/5340-5A, Segmented Circle Airport Marker System.
- b. AC 150/5345-27A, Specification for L-807 Eight-Foot and Twelve-Foot Unlighted or Externally Lighted Wind Cone Assemblies.

8. EMERGENCY PLAN

- a. AC 150/5200-13, Removal of Disabled Aircraft.
- b. AC 150/5200-17, Emergency Plan.
- c. AC 150/5210-2, Airport Emergency Medical Facilities and Service.
- d. AC 150/5210-7A, Aircraft Fire and Rescue Communications.
- e. AC 150/5340-17A, Standby Power for Non-FAA Airport Lighting Systems.

9. SELF INSPECTION PROGRAM

AC 150/5200-18, Airport Safety Self-Inspection.

10. GROUND VEHICLES

- a. AC 150/5210-5, Painting, Marking, and Lighting of Vehicles Used on an Airport.
- b. AC 150/5370-2, Safety on Airport During Construction Activity.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS.

- a. AC 70/7460-1C, Obstruction Marking and Lighting.
- b. FAR Part 77, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace - §1.10.

12. PROTECTION OF NAVAIDS

- a. AC 150/5300-2C, Airport Design Standards - Site Requirements for Terminal Navigational Facilities.
- b. AC 150/5340-1D, Marking of Paved Areas on Airports.

13. PUBLIC PROTECTION

- a. AC 150/5335-2, Airport Aprons.

14. BIRD HAZARD REDUCTION

- a. AC 150/5200-3A, Bird Hazards to Aircraft.
- b. AC 150/5200-8, Use of Chemical Controls to Repel Flocks of Birds at Airports.
- c. AC 150/5200-9, Bird Reactions and Scaring Devices.

15. AIRPORT CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

- a. AC 150/5280-2, Guidance for Airport Operators - Use of Notices to Airman as related to FAR Part 139.
- b. AC 150/5380-1, Airport Maintenance.
- c. AC 150/5380-2A, Snow Removal Techniques Where In-Pavement Lighting Systems are Installed.
- d. AC 150/5380-4, Ramp Operations During Periods of Snow and Ice Accumulations.

16. IDENTIFYING, MARKING, AND REPORTING CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER UNSERVICEABLE AREAS

- a. AC 150/5200-5, Considerations for the Improvement of Airport Safety.
- b. AC 150/5200-7, Safety on Airports During Maintenance of Runway Lighting.
- c. AC 150/5340-1D, Marking of Paved Areas on Airports.
- d. AC 150/5370-2, Safety on Airports During Construction of Activity.

APPENDIX 4. REFERENCE MATERIAL

1. FREE OF CHARGE PUBLICATIONS. The advisory circulars referenced below may be obtained free of charge from the Department of Transportation, Publication Section TAD 443.1, Washington, D.C. 20591.
2. COST PUBLICATIONS. Those publications (Advisory Circulars and Federal Aviation Regulations) listed below with actual costs may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Make check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents; no C.O.D. orders will be accepted.
3. PAVEMENT AREAS.
 - a. AC-150/5320-6B Airport Pavement Design and Evaluation
 - b. AC 150/5330-2A, Runway/Taxiway Widths and Clearances for Airline Airport.
 - c. AC 150/5335-1A, Airport Design Standards - Airports Served by Air Carriers - Taxiways.
 - d. AC 150/5370-10, Standards for specifying Construction of Airports (\$7.25).
 - e. AC 150/5380-1, Airport Maintenance.
 - f. AC 150/5380-3A, Removal of Contaminants from Pavement Surfaces.
 - g. AC 150/5380-4, Ramp Operations During Periods of Snow and Ice Accumulation.
4. SAFETY AREAS
 - a. AC 150/5320-5B, Airport Drainage (\$1.30).
 - b. AC 150/5325-2B, Airport Design Standards - Air Carrier Airports. - Surface Gradient and Line of Sight.
 - c. AC 150/5330-2A, Runway/Taxiway Widths and Clearances for Airline Airports.
 - d. AC 150/5335-1A, Airport Design Standards - Airports Served by Air Carriers - Taxiways.
 - e. AC 150/5380-1, Airport Maintenance.
 - f. FAR Part 1, Definitions and Abbreviations - \$3.00.

5. MARKING AND LIGHTING RUNWAYS, THRESHOLDS, AND TAXIWAYS

- a. AC 70/7460-1C, Obstruction Marking and Lighting.
- b. AC 150/5200-7, Safety on Airports During Maintenance of Runway Lighting.
- c. AC 150/5340-1D, Marking of Paved Areas on Airports.
- d. AC 150/5340-4B, Installation Details for Runway Centerline and Touchdown Zone Lighting Systems.
- e. AC 150/5340-5A, Segmented Circle Airport Marker System.
- f. AC 150/5340-13B, High Intensity Runway Lighting System.
- g. AC 150/5240-14B, Economy Approach Lighting Aids,
- h. AC 150/5340-15B, Taxiway Edge Lighting System.
- i. AC 150/5340-16B, Medium Intensity Runway Lighting System and Visual Approach Slope Indicators for Utility Airports.
- j. AC 150/5340-17A, Standby Power for Non-FAA Airport Lighting Systems.
- k. AC 150/5340-18, Taxiway Guidance sign System.
- l. AC 150/5340-19, Taxiway Centerline Lighting System.
- m. AC 150/5340-22, Maintenance Guide for Determining Degradation and Cleaning of Centerline and Touchdown Zone Lights.
- n. AC 150/5380-1, Airport Maintenance.
- o. AC 150/5380-2A, Snow Removal Techniques Where In-Pavement Lighting Systems are Installed.
- p. AC 150/5380-3A, Removal of Contaminants from Pavement Surfaces.

6. AIRPORT FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE

- a. AC 150/5210-7A, Aircraft Fire and Rescue Communications.
- b. AC 150/5210-8, Aircraft Fire Fighting and Rescue Personnel and Personnel Clothing.
- c. AC 150/5210-10, Airport Fire and Rescue Equipment Building Guide.
- d. AC 150/5210-12, Fire and Rescue Service for Certificated Airports.
- e. AC 150/5325-5A, Aircraft Data.