AC 150/5380-4

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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: RAMP OPERATIONS DURING PERIODS OF SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATION

- 1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular directs attention to an increased accident potential when show or ice accumulates on the surfaces of ramps and aircraft parking and holding areas and suggests some measures to reduce this potential.
- 2. BACKIROUND. A review of aircraft accidents and incidents indicates that they are more likely to occur when anow or ice is allowed to accumulate on ramps and parking or holding areas. Often pilots of parked or holding aircraft (especially turbojet aircraft) must apply more than normal power to break away, maneuver, and taxi the aircraft. The resultant blast may damage ramp support equipment or injure ramp personnel. For example, ramp service trucks have been overturned and maintenance stands have been blown into other parked aircraft. The effect of the blast is magnified by slick, icy surfaces which cause a reduction or complete loss of traction.
- 3. CORRECTIVE MEASURES. Measures may be taken to reduce this accident potential until the affected areas are properly cleared of accumulated snow and ice. In addition to those measures that airport owners and operators, fixed-base operators, air carrier maintenance and operations supervisors, and others now use to insure ramp safety, they are urged to:
 - a. Advise the personnel under their supervision that when ramp and parking or holding surfaces are icy or snow covered, more hazardous conditions exist.
 - b. Post a copy of this advisory circular in all areas frequented by affected personnel and have them read and initial it.

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- e... Exercise special care to insure that all portable and mobile equipment is clear of the blast area before the pilot is allowed to begin movement, and instruct personnel on foot to move out of the blast area.
- t. Alert affected personnel, who are servicing aircraft behind the one scheduled to begin movement before taxiing begins so they can secure loose objects or take other precautions.
- e. Stress the need to expeditiously remove snow and ice from ramps and aircraft parking or holding areas and from any other area where aircraft movement occurs. This should be a priority project.
- 4. HOW TO OFFAIN THIS PUBLICATION. Additional copies of this circular, AC 150/5380-4, Ramp Operations During Periods of Snow and Ice Accumulation, may be obtained from the Department of Transportation, Distribution Unit, TAD-484.3, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Clyde W. Pace, Jr. -

Acting Director, Airports Service