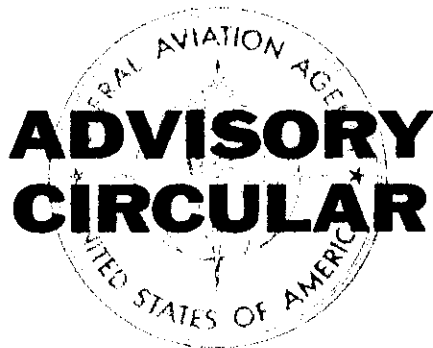


Federal Aviation Agency

Repl by 13A



AC NO: AC 20-13

AIRCRAFT

EFFECTIVE :

11/4/63

SUBJECT : GROUND-EFFECT VEHICLES

1. **PURPOSE.** This circular states Agency policy on the question whether ground-effect vehicles (those that derive their support from a cushion of compressed air) are aircraft as defined by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958.
 2. **BACKGROUND.** The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 defines an aircraft as "any contrivance now known or hereafter invented, used, or designed for navigation of or flight in the air." If the contrivance is an aircraft under this definition, its operator is subject to various Agency regulations. In recent years, several ground-effect vehicles have been constructed for surface transportation applications and the question has been raised whether such vehicles are in fact aircraft.
- AGENCY POLICY.** The Agency's policy is that a vehicle which derives support from a cushion of compressed air not exceeding 28 inches in height above the ground (or water) is not an aircraft as defined by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958. Such vehicles are not within the purview of Agency regulations and, therefore, need not be registered, certificated, nor operated in accordance with these regulations.

George S. Moore
Director
Flight Standards Service