



AC NO: 20-30A

DATE: 4/18/68

# ADVISORY CIRCULAR


## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT:** AIRCRAFT POSITION LIGHTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY LIGHTS

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1. PURPOSE. This circular sets forth:
    - a. An acceptable means (but not the only means) of complying with the position lights requirements in the Federal Aviation Regulations dealing with aircraft airworthiness.
    - b. Acceptable criteria for the installation of supplementary lights on aircraft.
  2. CANCELLATION. AC No. 20-30 dated October 19, 1964, is canceled.
  3. PERTINENT REGULATIONS. Sections .1385 thru .1401 of FAR Parts 23, 25, 27, and 29; TSO No. C30.
  4. BACKGROUND. Existing regulations and technical standard orders prescribe minimum intensities for exterior lights that must be displayed at night. Equipment producing substantially higher intensities may be used and such use is encouraged by the Federal Aviation Administration. Approval has also been asked for exterior lighting systems in which the required lights are arranged or used in unconventional ways, or in which supplementary lights are installed in addition to required lights, raising the question whether such systems are acceptable under current aircraft requirements.
  5. POSITION LIGHTS - ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE. Installation of the forward position lights at locations other than the wing-tip extremities, and of the rear position light at a location other than the aft extremity, may be acceptable under the provisions of the FARs if installation of these lights at the extremities would not be practicable. Design of such installations should be approved by FAA engineering. Acceptable reasons include the following:
    - a. The lights would be adversely affected by the proximity of powerplants or by excessive structural vibration.
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Initiated by: FS-100

- b. Lamp life would be unsatisfactory.
  - c. The lights would be inadequately accessible for service.
6. SUPPLEMENTARY LIGHTS - ACCEPTABLE INSTALLATION CRITERIA. This information has been incorporated in Advisory Circular 43.13-2, Chapter 4.

  
Director,  
*acting* Flight Standards Service

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