

DATE 9/16/81

ADVISORY CIRCULAR



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D.C.

Subject: RADIO TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR AERONAUTICS DOCUMENT DO-160A

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular (AC) calls attention to the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA) Document DO-160A, Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment, and discusses how the document may be used in connection with technical standard order (TSO) authorizations.
2. CANCELLATION. Advisory Circular 21-16, Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics Document DO-160A, dated April 6, 1981, is canceled.
3. RELATED FAR SECTIONS. FAR Part 21, Subpart O.
4. BACKGROUND. RTCA Document DO-160A was developed by RTCA to provide improved environmental test procedures and test conditions applicable to airborne equipment. In some cases applicants for TSO authorizations may prefer to use these new procedures in lieu of those specified in a specific TSO.
5. USE OF DO-160A PROCEDURES. An applicant for a TSO authorization for airborne equipment may use the conditions and procedures prescribed in RTCA Document No. DO-160A in lieu of the corresponding conditions and procedures specified in a TSO if it is shown that:
 - a. All conditions and procedures used are those prescribed in RTCA Document No. DO-160A.
 - b. The substitute test procedure from RTCA Document No. DO-160A provides an equivalent level of safety.
 - c. The applicant requests approval to deviate in accordance with the requirements of FAR Section 21.609.

9/16/81

6. WHERE TO OBTAIN COPIES OF RTCA DOCUMENT DO-160A. Copies of DO-160A may be obtained from:

RTCA Secretariat
Suite 655
1717 H Street NW.
Washington, D.C. 20006



M. C. Beard
Director of Airworthiness

2



U.S. Department
of Transportation

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Administration**

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