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for FAR Part 121

Title 14—Aeronautics and Space
CHAPTER I—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Docket No. 13994; Amdt. No. 121-115]

PART 121—CERTIFICATION AND OPERATIONS: DOMESTIC, FLAG, AND SUPPLEMENTAL AIR CARRIERS AND COMMERCIAL OPERATORS OF LARGE AIRCRAFT

First-Aid Kits

The purpose of this amendment to Appendix A of Part 121 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is to provide for the use of FAA approved items in required first-aid kits that are not included in Federal Specification GG-K-391a, permit certain required arm and leg splints to be stowed outside the first-aid kits, and to make certain clarifying changes in the regulation.

This amendment is based on a notice of proposed rule making (Notice No. 74-31), issued on September 5, 1974, and published in the Federal Register on September 12, 1974 (39 FR 32920).

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment, and due consideration has been given to all comments received in response to the notice.

In response to a comment requesting a clarification of the regulation, it should be pointed out that paragraph (4) of the Appendix specifies, as a minimum, the kind and quantity of items that each first-aid kit must contain. The Appendix does not prohibit the use of a first-aid kit that contains any of the items specified in paragraph (4) in quantities exceeding the minimums specified in that paragraph. However, as required by paragraph (1) of the Appendix, all of the contents of a first-aid kit must either meet Federal Specification GG-K-391a or be approved by the FAA.

The FAA is unable to agree with comments that objected to the proposal to substitute the word "aircraft" for "cabin" in paragraph (2) of Appendix A so that a first-aid kit, when more than one is required, can be located in the flight crewmember compartment. As stated in § 121.309(d), the purpose of requiring approved first-aid kits on the aircraft is to provide means for the treatment of injuries likely to occur in flight or in minor, as opposed to catastrophic, accidents. The FAA believes a first-aid kit located in the flight crew compartment, when more than one is required by Appendix A, will be readily available for

use consistent with the purpose of § 121.309(d). Furthermore, as stated by one commentator, there is reason to believe the kit located in the flight crewmember compartment is less likely to be pilfered than those located in the passenger compartment. Accordingly, this amendment adopts the change in wording proposed.

As proposed, this amendment deletes the "10 MM" specification for antiseptic swabs and the "6 MM" specification for ammonia inhalants. Those references are considered unnecessary, since Federal Specification GG-K-391a specifies the minimum portion required for each item set forth in paragraph (4) and each approved substitute for any of those items would also have to meet the same minimum portion requirement.

As explained in the proposal, one purpose of this amendment is to make the provisions of Appendix A more flexible by permitting FAA approved first-aid kit items to be substituted for those specified in paragraph (4) of the Appendix. Interested persons can be assured that appropriate medical advice will be available within the agency for the guidance of FAA personnel in approving items for use in first-aid kits.

Paragraph (5) of the Appendix permits arm and leg splints which do not fit within a first-aid kit to be stowed in a readily accessible location as near as practicable to the kit. While certain comments were opposed to proposed paragraph (5), it has been adopted as proposed, since the FAA believes it will adequately ensure the availability during an emergency of arm and leg splints that cannot be stowed within a kit. These arm and leg splints, as in the case of all other approved first-aid equipment, must be clearly identified, marked, and inspected in accordance with the current provisions of § 121.309.

Certain comments recommended the use of inflatable splints. However, as explained in the preamble to Amendment 121-107, consideration was given to permitting the use of inflatable splints, but tests conducted during decompression have revealed that this type of splint can be hazardous for use in airplanes due to changes in the cabin pressure.

Comments were also received which recommended the adoption of requirements for first-aid equipment and crewmember training that are considered outside the scope of the Notice concerning this amendment. However, those comments may be considered in future FAA regulatory action.

Since this amendment is relaxatory and clarifying in nature and requires an effective date that coincides with the January 1, 1975, effective date established by Amendment No. 121-109, I find that good cause exists for making this amendment effective on less than 30 days notice.

(Secs. 313(a), 601, and 604 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1354(a), 1421, and 1424), and sec. 8(c) of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1656(c)).)

In consideration of the foregoing, Appendix A of Part 121 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, as amended by Amendment No. 121-107 (38 FR 35233) and Amendment No. 121-109 (39 FR 20590) is amended, effective January 1, 1975, as follows:

Appendix A [Amended]

1. By revising paragraph (1) to read as follows:

Each first-aid kit must be dust and moisture proof, and contain only materials that either meet Federal Specification GG-K-391a, as revised, or are approved.

2. By amending paragraph (2) by striking out the word "cabin" after the phrase "throughout the" and before the word "and" and by substituting therefor the word "aircraft."

3. By amending the introductory language of paragraph (4) to read as follows:

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (5), each first-aid kit must contain at least the following or other approved contents:

4. By amending paragraph (4) by striking out the phrase "10 MM" after the phrase "Antiseptic swabs" and the phrase "6 MM" after the phrase "Ammonia inhalants."

5. By adding a new paragraph (5) to read as follows:

(5) Arm and leg splints which do not fit within a first-aid kit may be stowed in a readily accessible location that is as near as practicable to the kit.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 26, 1974.

ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD,
Administrator.

(As published in the Federal Register [40 F.R. 1039] on January 6, 1975).

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