

Title 14—AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

Chapter I—Federal Aviation Agency

[Docket No. 6979; Amdt. 121-18]

PART 121—CERTIFICATION AND OPERATIONS: DOMESTIC, FLAG, AND SUPPLEMENTAL AIR CAR- RIERS AND COMMERCIAL OPERA- TORS OF LARGE AIRCRAFT

Airborne Weather Radar Equipment Requirements; Airplanes Engaged in Cargo-Only Operations

The purpose of these amendments is to require the installation of approved airborne weather radar equipment on airplanes certificated under the transport category rules (except C-46 type airplanes) that are operated under Part 121 of the Federal Aviation Regulations in cargo-only operations. These amendments were proposed in Notice 65-30 and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on October 23, 1965 (30 F.R. 13545).

One comment received on the notice considered the equipment unnecessary for air carrier cargo-only operations. It pointed out that cargo flights operated by air carriers are released and so flight followed that they can be detoured, canceled, or landed short of their destinations should weather conditions dictate this type of action. This comment assumes that company-owned air-to-ground communication is continuously available for the accomplishment of this purpose. However, this is not required or used by all air carriers and commercial operators engaged in cargo-only operations. Even if this communication is available, the Agency is of the opinion that radar equipment contributes to greater safety in operations, since it facilitates the early detection and location by the pilot of severe turbulence and enables him to avoid these areas or take other action necessary in the interest of safety.

Other comments received indicated a difference of opinion as to the types of airplanes on which the radar equipment should be installed. In this respect some comments urged the exclusion of certain types of airplanes (in addition to the C-46 type) from the radar equipment requirement. As opposed to this, other comments urged the requirement of the equipment on the C-46 type airplane and on certain nontransport category airplanes not covered by the proposal. The proposal to require airborne weather

radar equipment for cargo-only operations was made for the same safety reason as for passenger-carrying operations, namely, to detect areas of severe turbulence commonly associated with thunderstorms. Therefore, the Agency believes that no distinction between cargo and passenger airplanes should be made by this amendment. However, if further study indicates that more airplane types should be excluded from the requirement, or that the requirement should apply to additional airplane types, the Agency will take steps to accomplish the purpose as to both cargo-only and passenger-carrying operations.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of these amendments, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matters presented.

In consideration of the foregoing, § 121.357 of Part 121 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is amended, effective April 15, 1966, as follows:

1. By amending the section heading to read as follows:

§ 121.357 Airborne weather radar equipment requirements.

2. By redesignating paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

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

(b) No person may operate any of the following airplanes certificated under the transport category rules (except C-46 type airplanes) in cargo-only operations after the listed date unless approved airborne weather radar equipment has been installed in that airplane:

(1) Turbojet powered airplanes—December 31, 1966.

(2) Other transport category airplanes—December 31, 1967.

4. By amending the introductory clause of redesignated paragraph (c) to read as follows:

(c) Each person operating a transport category airplane required to have approved airborne weather radar equipment installed shall, when using it under this part, operate it in accordance with the following:

5. By striking out the words "cargo-only," from redesignated paragraph (d).

(Secs. 313(a), 601, 604, 605, and 607; Federal Aviation Act of 1958; 49 U.S.C. 1354, 1421, 1424, 1425, 1427)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on April 8, 1966.

WILLIAM F. MCKEE,
Administrator.

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