



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
National Policy

NOTICE
N 8000.343

Effective Date:

12/18/06

Cancellation Date:

12/18/07

SUBJ: Turbine-Powered Airplane Operations and all Air Ambulance Airplane
Operations (Special Emphasis)

1. PURPOSE. This notice provides guidance to principal inspectors (PI) concerning the issuance or amendment of operations specifications (OpSpecs) to an air carrier who is authorized or seeking authorization to add turbine-powered airplanes or conduct airplane air ambulance operations.

2. DISTRIBUTION. We will distribute this notice to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters, including the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; and to all Flight Standards District Offices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avr.faa.gov>. Operators may find this information on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at: http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/examiners_inspectors/8000/

3. BACKGROUND. The FAA is reviewing the exercise of operational control by operators conducting or seeking to conduct operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135. A special emphasis is being placed on operators conducting or applying to conduct operations using turbine-powered airplanes and any airplanes in air ambulance operations.

a. Turbine-powered airplanes include turbopropeller, turbojet, and turbofan airplanes.

b. Air ambulance airplanes include any airplane (regardless of type of powerplant) used, equipped, or intended to be used, in air ambulance service. Air ambulance airplanes are usually equipped with at least medical oxygen, suction, and a stretcher, incubator, or other approved patient restraint/containment device. The airplane need not be used exclusively as an air ambulance airplane and the equipment need not be permanently installed to fall within the subject group.

4. DISCUSSION. Many air transportation operators may have franchised, leased, or otherwise rented their authority to conduct operations to noncertificated entities. Companies engaging in these practices compromise their ability to maintain the operational control required by regulations. Favored clientele of these certificate holders include, but are not limited to, air ambulance companies.

Distribution: A-W(FS)-2; A-X(FS)-3; A-FFS-7 (LTD); AMA-200 (12 cys)
(Electronically: A-W(FS)-2; A-X(FS)-2; A-FFS-7)

Initiated By: AFS-200

a. Air ambulance operations involve the air transportation of a person with a health condition that requires medical personnel as determined by a health care provider, or the holding out to the public as willing to provide air transportation to a person with a health condition that requires medical personnel as determined by a health care provider.

b. Holding out to the public includes, but is not limited to, advertising, solicitation, or association with a hospital or medical care provider, without clear identification in advertising and solicitation that the air transportation service is provided by a named certificate holder, or if the medical care provider uses more than one certificate holder, by FAA air carrier certificate holders.

5. ACTION.

a. Before adding any affected airplanes to the OpSpecs of any operator, or applicant seeking authorization to conduct turbine powered airplane or airplane (regardless of type of powerplant) air ambulance operations, PIs affected by this notice must provide the Air Transportation Division, (AFS-200, through the dedicated FAA Lotus Notes address 9-AWA-AVS-AFS-250-840085) with the air operator or applicant's name (as applicable) and the airplane registration number and airplane serial number. PIs must receive AFS-200's concurrence before they add the airplane to the OpSpecs.

b. Newly manufactured airplanes delivered directly to the certificate holder are exempted from the notification requirements of this notice and may be added immediately to the certificate holder's operations specification (OpSpec) without approval from AFS-200.

NOTE. This is a directive requirement of the Flight Standards Service. Instances of noncompliance will be referred to the cognizant manager for appropriate action.

6. DISPOSITION. We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice in FSIMS before this notice expires. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Air Transportation Division, AFS-200, at (202) 267-8166.

ORIGINAL SIGNED (by)

James J. Ballough
Director, Flight Standards Service