



800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Date: April 16, 2007

To: Sightseeing Operators that have Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs Registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Subject: New Registration Requirement Due September 11, 2007

For almost 20 years, sightseeing operations (formerly defined in 14 CFR section 135.1(c) of the FAA's regulations) have been required to conduct drug and alcohol testing of their safety-sensitive employees. You were required to register your drug and alcohol testing program with the FAA's Drug Abatement Division. The FAA's "National Air Tour Safety Standards" (Air Tours) final rule now requires sightseeing companies operating under the former section 135.1(c), now known as section 91.147, to obtain a **Letter of Authorization (LOA) from their local FSDO**. The LOA will replace your current drug and alcohol registration. Details of the new LOA/registration process under 14 CFR part 91.147 may be found in the attached excerpt from the Air Tours rule. The new regulation in its entirety can be found at the Drug Abatement Division website:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/drug_alcohol/testing/drug_alcohol/

Due to these recent changes in the FAA's regulations governing air tours and sightseeing operations, you must contact the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) nearest to your principal place of business for issuance of a Letter of Authorization (LOA). The new drug and alcohol registration statement is part of the LOA. **Issuance of the LOA must be completed no later than September 11, 2007. After September 11, 2007, your current registration of your drug and alcohol testing program will no longer be valid.**

Throughout this transition, you must continue drug and alcohol testing your safety sensitive employees, even though the LOA may not have been issued from your local FSDO.

If you have questions about the antidrug and alcohol misuse prevention regulations, please call the Drug Abatement Division at 202-267-8442. For questions about the Air Tours regulation and the new registration/Letter of Authorization requirement, you may contact your local FSDO.

Sincerely

Diane J. Wood
Manager, Drug Abatement Division
Office of Aerospace Medicine
Federal Aviation Administration

Attachment



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

**Attachment: Applying for a Letter of Authorization for Air Tour Operations
(from 14 CFR part 91.147)**

- (b) An Operator must comply with the safety provisions of 14 CFR part 136, subpart A, and apply for and receive a Letter of Authorization from the Flight Standards District Office nearest to its principal place of business by September 11, 2007.
- (c) Each application for a Letter of Authorization must include the following information:
- (1) Name of Operator, agent, and any d/b/a (doing-business-as) under which that Operator does business;
 - (2) Principal business address and mailing address;
 - (3) Principal place of business (if different from business address);
 - (4) Name of person responsible for management of the business;
 - (5) Name of person responsible for aircraft maintenance;
 - (6) Type of aircraft, registration number(s), and make/model/series; and
 - (7) An Antidrug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Program registration. This is contained within the letter of authorization
- (d) The Operator must register and implement its drug and alcohol testing programs in accordance with part 121, appendices I and J, of this chapter.
- (e) The Operator must comply with the provisions of the Letter of Authorization received.