

## COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE 99-04

SUBJECT: Temporary Airport Closure

PURPOSE: To assist ADO's in interpretation of the statute and compliance handbook when sponsors request temporary closure of all or part of an airport.

DISCUSSION: Temporary airport closures are normally requested due to hazardous conditions, aeronautical events, or non-aeronautical events. Paragraph 4-8.e. of the Compliance Handbook gives the following guidance concerning these three situations:

a. Closing for Hazardous Conditions: Airport owners are required to close the airport for the protection of users if hazardous conditions cannot be mitigated through physical marking and the use of Notices to Airmen (NOTAM's). FAA approval is not needed for these closures.

b. Closing for Aeronautical Events: Airports may be closed for aeronautical events such as air shows, fly-ins, and aviation conventions without FAA approval. However, the closure should be well publicized in advance and appropriate NOTAM's must be issued.

c. Closing for Non-Aeronautical Events: Paragraph 47107(a)(8) of the statute gives the Secretary authority to approve airport closures for non-aeronautical purposes; but the Compliance Handbook, Order 5190.6A, is more restrictive, stating that an entire obligated airport may not be closed for non-aeronautical purposes.

However, in certain circumstances, where aviation awareness is promoted through activities such as model airplane flying, the handbook allows limited use of airport facilities for such activities as long as there is not total closure of the airport. In these cases, safeguards need to be established to protect the aeronautical use of the airport while the non-aeronautical activities are in progress. These safeguards are detailed in paragraph 4-8.e.(3) of the handbook and are summarized below:

- The event's location must not interfere with normal aeronautical use.
- Adequate facilities must remain open to air traffic.
- The event should be coordinated with airport users.
- No obstructions, determined by FAA to be hazards, shall be constructed.
- Proper NOTAM's must be issued in advance.
- The portion of the airport to be closed must be properly marked.
- The appropriate Flight Standards District Office and air carriers must be notified.
- The markings should be removed and damage repaired within 24 hours.

GUIDANCE: ANM will continue to follow the Compliance Handbook as summarized above and allow partial closure of an airport if the proposed event promotes aviation. Additionally, if the airport's operational areas are not affected, other community events may be allowed if the

applicable safeguards listed above are in place. In both cases, the airport should receive proper payment for use of the facilities.

REFERENCES: Title 49 USC Subtitle VII, FAA Order 5190.6A

APPROVAL: signed  
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