NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

National Policy

N 8900.146

Effective Date:
1/31/11

Cancellation Date:
1/31/12

SUBJ: OpSpec A012, Part 121 Domestic Operations to Certain Airports Outside the 48 Contiguous United States and Alaska

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides revised guidance for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) and principal operations inspectors (POI) assigned to certificate holders conducting airplane operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121. This notice also announces a revision to operations specification (OpSpec) paragraph A012, Part 121 Domestic Operations to Certain Airports Outside the 48 Contiguous United States and Alaska. The revision to A012 represents a mandatory template change.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is FAA CHDOs and POIs assigned to certificate holders conducting domestic and flag operations under part 121. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards divisions and branches in the regions and in headquarters (HQ).

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at http://fsims.avs.faa.gov. Operators and the public can find this notice on the FAA's Web site at http://fsims.faa.gov.

4. Background. The Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) conducted a comprehensive review of all OpSpec A012 paragraphs currently issued. The review revealed numerous cases of A012 authorizations having been issued in a manner inconsistent with FAA policy and guidance.

    a. Research. AFS-200 also conducted research regarding the continued relevance of the limitations and provisions applicable to the state of Alaska. The research revealed, among other things, a higher degree of accuracy of weather reporting and forecasting than was previously available when A012 was first adopted.

    b. OpSpec A012 Changes. As a result of the FAA's review and research, several changes have been made to OpSpec paragraph A012. Some of the more significant ones are listed below:

- This paragraph now provides blanket authority to apply its provisions to the state of Alaska.
- The OpSpec can only be applied to airports listed as regular, provisional, or refueling airports in the certificate holder's OpSpec paragraph C070.
- A certificate holder must have flag authority listed in paragraph A001 of its OpSpecs.
- The requirement for an airport listed in Table 1 of the OpSpec to be within 2 hours average flying time of the territorial limits of the 48 contiguous United States has been replaced with a 950-nautical mile (NM) requirement from the territorial limits of the 48 contiguous United States.
- An alternate airport will be required to be listed in the dispatch release for all flights scheduled for more than 6 hours.
- The seasonal limitations requiring an alternate airport to be listed in the dispatch release for all flights operating to Alaska has been changed to a requirement to list an alternate airport in the dispatch release if the destination airport does not have more than one separate suitable runway authorized for the type of aircraft to be used, regardless of the time of year.

    c. Sample OpSpec A012 Template. A sample template of OpSpec paragraph A012 is attached to this notice. POIs should review the new template in its entirety to see all of the changes that have been made to the authorization.

5. Guidance. FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 3, Part A Operations Specifications—General, contains guidance on how to issue OpSpec A012.

6. Action. POIs must accomplish the following:

    a. For Certificate Holders Currently Issued OpSpec A012. Revision 060 to A012 is a mandatory change. POIs will have 60 days from the date of this notice to issue the new template and archive the old one. Prior to issuing the new template, POIs must ensure that the certificate holder is able to comply with all of the requirements of the OpSpec. This OpSpec cannot be applied to any airports that do not meet all of the requirements of the new template.

    b. For Initial Authorization. For certificate holders applying for initial authorization of A012, follow the guidance contained in Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 3.

7. Disposition. We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice to the Air Carrier Operations Branch (AFS-220) at 202-267-8166.

John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. Sample OpSpec Paragraph A012, Part 121 Domestic Operations to Certain Airports Outside the 48 Contiguous United States and Alaska

A012. **Part 121 Domestic Operations to Certain Airports Outside** **HQ Control:** **xx/xx/xxxx**
the 48 Contiguous States and Alaska **HQ Revision:** **xxx**

a.   This operations specification authorizes the certificate holder to conduct operations pursuant to the rules applicable to domestic operations between:

  (1)   The airports listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070 and the airports in Table 1 of this paragraph.

  (2)   The airports listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070 and the state of Alaska.

All operations must be conducted in accordance with the conditions and limitations set forth below.

b.   Applicability. This domestic operation authorization applies only to operations conducted as follows:

  (1)   For operations outside the 48 contiguous United States:

    (a)   Operations from airports located in the contiguous United States that are listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070 to the airports listed in Table 1, provided those airports are:

      (i)   Outside the 48 contiguous United States, and
      (ii)   Within 950 nautical miles (NM) from the territorial limits of the 48 contiguous United States.

    (b)   Operations from the airports listed in Table 1 to the airports located in the contiguous United States that are listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070.

  (2)   For operations in the state of Alaska:

    (a)   Operations to airports in the state of Alaska that are listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070. The airports in the state of Alaska do not need to be listed in Table 1.

    (b)   Operations from airports in the state of Alaska listed in the certificate holder's paragraph C070 to the airports located in the contiguous United States that are listed in the certificate holder's operations specification paragraph C070.

Table 1. Airports Outside of the 48 Contiguous United States (Excluding Alaska)

ICAO Identifier & Airport Name

C. Conditions and Limitations:

  (1)   The certificate holder must have flag authority listed in paragraph A001 of its operations specifications.

  (2)   The certificate holder must comply with the requirements of 14 CFR part 121, § 121.11.

  (3)   The certificate holder must comply with all regulations applicable to domestic operations for the operations between the airports authorized by this operations specification.

  (4)   The certificate holder shall not operate any aircraft below the minimums set forth in § 121.657.

(5) For all operations conducted in accordance with this paragraph, an alternate airport for the destination must be listed in the dispatch release if the flight is scheduled for more than 6 hours. For operations only to the state of Alaska, an alternate airport for the destination must be listed in the dispatch release if the destination airport does not have more than one separate suitable runway authorized for the type of aircraft to be used.

(6) All airports used in conjunction with this authorization must be listed in the certificate holder's C070 paragraph as either a regular, provisional, or refueling airport, in accordance with § 121.631(a).

(7) If all of the conditions and limitations contained this operations specification paragraph cannot be met, the certificate holder is prohibited from conducting operations under this authorization and must conduct operations in accordance with flag rules.

TEXT99

1. Issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.
2. Support information reference:
3. These operations specifications are approved by direction of the Administrator.

4. Date approval is effective: Amendment number:
5. I hereby accept and receive the operations specifications in this paragraph.

Date: