

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.165

National Policy

Effective Date:
8/19/11

Cancellation Date:
8/19/12

SUBJ: Verification of Communication and Coordination Regarding a Decompression to Ensure Compliance with Section 121.1500 SFAR No. 111

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice requires aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who are responsible for oversight of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 certificate holders that operate an aircraft with a disabled chemical oxygen generator in the lavatory to make a one-time inspection. This inspection validates that decompression procedures referenced in 14 CFR part 121, § 121.1500, Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 111—Lavatory Oxygen Systems, have been incorporated into the operator's decompression procedures. This SFAR also applies to operators of U.S.-registered airplanes under 14 CFR part 129 with a maximum passenger capacity of 20 or greater. However, ASIs with oversight of these operators only need to verify that all oxygen masks have been removed from affected lavatories and that mask stowage locations have been reclosed. Also, they must verify that crew emergency procedures specifically include a visual check of the lavatory as a priority when checking the cabin following any event where oxygen masks were deployed in the cabin.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and Certificate Management Office (CMO) ASIs who have oversight responsibilities for part 121 certificate holders. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and 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>. Air carriers (operators) can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2011-04-09, Various Transport Category Airplanes Equipped With Chemical Oxygen Generators Installed in a Lavatory, requires operators to disable lavatory oxygen systems with chemical oxygen generators. Section 121.1500, SFAR No. 111(b)(1)(iii) requires each affected operator to ensure that crew emergency procedures include a visual check of the lavatory as a priority following any event where oxygen masks were deployed in the cabin.

5. Discussion.

a. Current Recommended Procedures. FAA guidance materials, such as FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 23, Section 6, Cabin Safety and Flight Attendant Training; Volume 3, Chapter 23, Section 4, Flight Attendant General Emergency Training Curriculum Segment, paragraph 3-1798; and Volume 3, Chapter 32, Section 13, Approval and Acceptance of Flight Attendant Manuals and Checklists, Figure 3-124, Preparation of Flight Attendant Manual, state that Flight Attendants (F/A) should during a decompression event:

- Immediately don the nearest oxygen mask,
- Sit down or grasp a fixed object,
- Hold on in order to brace themselves until given the clearance that it is safe to move about the cabin by a flightcrew member, and
- Once the all clear is given, obtain a portable oxygen bottle with oxygen masks and administer first aid in the cabin as needed.

b. SFAR No. 111 Requirement. Once the decompression event has concluded and while administering first aid as needed, F/As should direct special attention to occupants of aircraft lavatories with disabled oxygen masks. Certificate holders should have the procedures discussed above included in the appropriate manuals and incorporated in crewmember training programs.

c. Preflight Briefing. Certificate holders should ensure that crewmembers receive a preflight briefing on aircraft with deactivated chemical oxygen generators. The pilot in command (PIC) should ensure that F/As are familiar with how to use cockpit oxygen dispensing equipment and use cockpit communication means on the flight deck as a part of F/A actions. This type of briefing could mitigate the risk of a cabin crewmember being unfamiliar with the flight deck decompression oxygen system. The cabin crewmembers should be briefed on which jump seat position to assume to prepare for an emergency descent. Crewmember-delivered and automated safety briefings regarding the lavatory oxygen system must be revised. Oxygen mask pictorials on placards and safety information cards that are used to supplement the briefing must be corrected, obscured, or removed.

6. Action.

a. Manual and Program Review. ASIs should ensure verify that their assigned carriers have revised the appropriate manuals and training programs to comply with § 121.1500, SFAR No. 111:

(1) Pilot preflight briefings include information about disabled lavatory oxygen generators on applicable aircraft. The preflight briefings should ensure that F/As are familiar with the correct use of flight deck oxygen dispensing equipment and proper use of flight deck communication.

(2) Air carriers with an automated preflight safety briefing have revised that segment of the preflight briefing tape or instruct crewmembers to provide a “live demonstration” to address decompression procedures.

(3) Passenger briefing cards and placards that have pictorials of the lavatory oxygen masks have been corrected, obscured, or removed.

(4) F/As' decompression procedures include the requirements discussed in paragraph 5.

b. Program Tracking and Reporting System (PTRS). Once the review of the manuals and training program has been completed, the principal operations inspector (POI) or cabin safety inspector (CSI) (if applicable) will take PTRS actions as follow:

(1) Compliance. If the operator has complied with the requirements of § 121.1500, SFAR No. 111(b)(1)(iii).

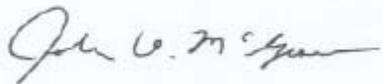
- Open the PTRS record using code: 1381.
- Enter the appropriate 14 CFR part: 121.1500.
- Record the Start Date/Enter into the Results: "Satisfactory" (without quotes).
- Enter the Completed/Closed Date.
- Record the Operator Designator: as appropriate.
- Enter into National Use Field: "LavOxy" (without quotes).
- Comments: not required.

(2) Noncompliance. If the operator has not complied with the recommendations of § 121.1500, SFAR No. 111(b)(1)(iii).

- Open the PTRS record using code: 1381.
- Enter the appropriate 14 CFR part: 121.1500.
- Record the Start Date/Enter into the Results: "Information" (without quotes).
- Enter the Completed/Closed Date.
- Record the Operator Designator: as appropriate.
- Enter into the National Use Field: "LavOxy" (without quotes).
- Record in Comments the action taken.

7. Disposition. We will not incorporate this information into FAA Order 8900.1. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to DK Deaderick, Part 121 Air Carrier Operations Branch (AFS-220) at 202-267-7480.

for



John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service