

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.116

National Policy

Effective Date:
5/5/10

Cancellation Date:
5/5/11

SUBJ: B-747F Aircraft Operators Employing Incorrect Liferaft on Transport Category Aircraft

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice contains information and recommendations concerning Type II liferafts in use on B-747 transport category freighter aircraft and passenger carrying aircraft if so equipped, in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation (14 CFR) part 121, § 121.153(a)(2), which states no certificate holder may operate an aircraft unless that aircraft is in an airworthy condition and meets the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter, including those relating to identification and equipment.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) aviation safety inspectors (ASI), cabin safety inspectors (CSI), principal operation inspectors (POI), principal maintenance inspectors (PMI). The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters.

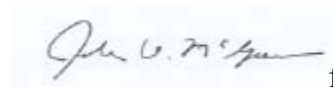
3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools-resources/orders_notices/. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public may find this information at: <http://fsims.faa.gov>.

4. Background. An operator's principal inspector (PI) found a discrepancy with the required portable raft installed on B-747 freighter aircraft. It was discovered the rafts installed on the aircraft were Type II life rafts. The Type II liferaft is not designated for transport-category aircraft per Technical Standard Order (TSO) TSO-C70a, Liferrafts (Reversible and Nonreversible); 14 CFR part 121, § 121.339(a)(2); 14 CFR part 25, § 25.1415(b); Policy Letter S-ANM100-1985-00030; and AC 25-17, Transport Airplane Cabin Interiors Airworthiness Handbook (current edition). Type II liferafts are of a single tube construction with a single inflation source, Type I liferafts are constructed with two independent buoyancy tubes with an independent inflation source for each primary flotation tube.

5. Discussion. There are several raft manufacturers producing Type I and Type II liferafts. TSO-C70a, Appendix 1 states that "a Type II liferaft is for use in nontransport category aircraft; A Type I life raft is for use on transport category aircraft." Since the operator's B-747 fleet are transport category aircraft, the Type II liferaft installed by the operator is incorrect per TSO-C70a and the manufacturer's manual.

6. Action. PIs assigned to air carriers that operate B-747 freighter and passenger carrying aircraft should review their operator's records and or inspect their aircraft to determine whether Type I liferafts or Type II liferafts are installed. Type II liferafts are for use on nontransport type aircraft. If Type II liferafts are found the operator should be informed that they may be in noncompliance. Operators may apply for an exemption in order to obtain the correct liferafts.

7. Disposition. We will not incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before the notice expires. Direct questions concerning this notice to the Aircraft Maintenance Division, AFS-300, at (202) 385-6435.

 for

John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service