

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.619

National Policy

Effective Date:
3/16/22

Cancellation Date:
3/16/23

SUBJ: Conformity Review of Helicopter Air Ambulance Risk Analysis Programs

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice announces a required conformity review of regulatory risk analysis programs for helicopter air ambulance (HAA) certificate holders (CH) conducting operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135 to determine their compliance with part 135, §§ 135.617 and 135.619.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards Safety Assurance offices' Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) with oversight responsibilities for CHs conducting HAA operations. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices, the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <https://fsims.avs.faa.gov>, and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at <https://drs.faa.gov/>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices, FSIMS at <https://fsims.faa.gov>, and the DRS.
- 4. Background.** As a result of a HAA flight that was involved in a fatal accident on January 29, 2019 near Zaleski, OH, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued Safety Recommendation A-20-14, which asked the FAA to "review the flight risk assessments for all helicopter air ambulance operators for compliance with Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations 135.617 and Advisory Circular 135-14B and require operators to address any deficiencies that are identified."
- 5. Action.**

 - a. Remind Air Carriers.** POIs should remind air carriers that Advisory Circular (AC) 135-14, Helicopter Air Ambulance Operations, may be used as a guide for correcting any deficiencies in their risk analysis program.

Note: While compliance with AC recommendations is not mandatory, the FAA encourages CHs conducting HAA operations to use the information provided in the AC when considering methods of compliance with FAA regulations.

b. Determine Compliance. No later than 120 days after the effective date of this notice, POIs with oversight responsibilities for CHs authorized to conduct HAA operations will use the Safety Assurance System (SAS) to plan, resource, and collect data of those CHs' approved risk analysis programs to determine compliance with § 135.617 and, if the CH conducts HAA operations with 10 or more HAAs authorized on the CH's operations specifications (OpSpecs), compliance with § 135.619(a)(4).

c. Create a Custom Data Collection Tool (C DCT). POIs will create an assessment on the Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP) for each assigned HAA CH to determine compliance with the requirements outlined in this notice. To create a principal inspector (PI) C DCT, follow these steps:

- (1) From the CAP, select the "Add Assessment" button.
- (2) Select a "CH/A" from the drop-down menu.
- (3) Select the "Custom DCT" radio button.
- (4) In the text box, enter "HAA Risk Analysis." This will activate the "Add" button.
(Any text entered here will be overwritten once you select the National/Divisional template in Step 12, which autofills the "Custom DCT Name" field with the template title.)
- (5) Select "Add."
- (6) Enter "N8900.619" without quotes in the "Local/Divisional/National" field.
- (7) Select the checkbox for "L/D/N Locked?"
- (8) For "Requires Own Assessment?" select "Yes" from the drop-down menu.
- (9) Select the "Design" radio button next to "Question Type."
- (10) Ensure the "OP" radio button next to "Specialty" is selected.
- (11) Select the "Yes" radio button from the "Apply from Templates" menu, and then select "National/Divisional" from the drop-down menu.
- (12) Select "HAA Risk Analysis A-20-14" from the "Select Template" drop-down menu.
- (13) Select "Search."
- (14) After the questions populate, select the "Add" button.
- (15) Scroll up to the "Custom DCT Context" panel and verify that the "Custom DCT Name" field has prepopulated with the template title and replaced the text entered previously in Step 4.
- (16) Scroll down and select "OK." The "Assessment Details" window will appear.

(17) Select a calendar-year quarter from the “Assessment Due Date” drop-down menu that accommodates the required completion date of this notice.

(18) If desired, at the bottom left corner of the window, select the number of additional DCTs to be created (if applicable) from the drop-down menu and select “Add DCTs.” Sections for each DCT created will appear in the “DCT Assignment” section.

(19) If additional DCTs were created, enter text in the “PI Common Instructions” box if desired (this will apply to all DCTs created in Step 18). Select “Append to All.” Alternatively, the PI may enter unique PI instructions for each DCT created (see Step 20).

(20) To enter unique PI instructions for each DCT (under the “DCT Assignment” section):

(a) Select the “Recommended/Assigned To” inspector from the drop-down menu.

(b) Select a “Complete Data Collection By” date which meets the requirements of this notice from the calendar menu.

(c) Enter text in the “Instructions” field (specific to this particular DCT).

(d) Select “Location,” if applicable. (If the location is entered at this point, the field locks and cannot be edited during data reporting.)

(e) The “M/M/S” field may be left blank. If separate DCTs are created for each make, model, and series (M/M/S), the PI can select M/M/S here, but this cannot be changed later.

(f) If desired, documents such as this notice may be appended using the “Attach Documents” button.

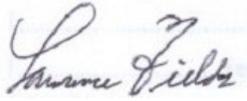
(g) When the information has been populated for each DCT, select “Save.”

(21) Verify that the C DCT(s) appears in the CAP.

(22) Select “Submit Plan.”

d. Record Results. Once resourced, the assigned aviation safety inspector (ASI) performs data collection and recording using the “HAA Risk Analysis A-20-14” National/Divisional C DCT. Followup actions are recorded in the Action Item Tracking Tool (AITT).

6. Disposition. We will not incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires; however we will develop Order 8900.1 guidance identifying acceptable methods for documenting previous training or experience. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) at 202-267-8166.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Fields", is shown within a light blue rectangular box.

Lawrence Fields
Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service