



**U.S. Department  
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# InFO

Information for Operators

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**Subject:** Possible Fuel Starvation during Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 133 Operating Certificate; Class C Rotorcraft External-Load Operations.

**Purpose:** This InFO serves to inform part 133 operators of possible fuel starvation when conducting Class C Rotorcraft Load Combination (RLC) flight operations.

**Background:** Following an National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) review of five previous accidents involving helicopters conducting Class C RLC operations indicates that, because of the high pitch and roll attitudes that can occur while maneuvering, Class C RLC operations are particularly vulnerable to fuel unporting, which can occur when an aircraft is operated in certain flight profiles that result in fuel flowing away from ports and lines that deliver it to the engine. Fuel starvation can result if this type of flight is conducted with fuel levels that do not adequately compensate for the helicopter's attitudes unique to the operation.

**Discussion:** The NTSB found that unporting occurred at a fuel level much higher than that required by 14 CFR part 91, §91.151. Specifically, in four accidents, all involving an MD 369-series helicopter performing a Class C RLC operation, the helicopter experienced fuel starvation at fuel loads between 94-146 pounds. For the MD 369-series helicopter, about 78 pounds of fuel would be required to meet the §91.151 regulations. This information can be found in NTSB Safety Recommendation Report [NTSB/ASR-21-02](#).

**Recommended Action:** All part 133 Rotorcraft External-Load Operators conducting Class C RLC are encouraged to:

- Work with the helicopter manufacturers to develop fuel minimums that address the risk of fuel starvation during these operations.
- Incorporate these fuel minimums into their Rotorcraft Load Combinations Flight Manuals (RLCFM) as other information essential for safe operation with external loads per §133.47.

**Contact:** Direct questions or comments regarding this InFO to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) General Aviation and Commercial Division's Operations Group at 202-267-1100 or email at [9-AFS-800-Correspondence@faa.gov](mailto:9-AFS-800-Correspondence@faa.gov).