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InFO

Information for Operators

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http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info/all_infos

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements, with relatively low urgency or impact on safety. This is a guidance document. Its content is not legally binding in its own right and will not be relied upon by the Department as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Conformity with the guidance document is voluntary only. Nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations.

Subject: Reporting Requirements Per Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.) for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 121 Air Carriers Utilizing 14 CFR Part 145 Foreign Repair Stations for Heavy Maintenance.

Purpose: This InFO provides information to all Part 121 air carriers that use Part 145 repair stations located in foreign countries for heavy maintenance of the annual reporting requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 44733(g).

Background: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 directed Congressional amendments to 49 U.S.C. § 44733 Oversight of repair stations located outside the United States. The aviation industry is subject to stringent regulatory requirements to ensure safety and compliance, particularly concerning aircraft maintenance. As part of these efforts, U.S. federal law mandates specific reporting obligations for Part 121 air carriers that conduct heavy maintenance on their aircraft at Part 145 repair stations located outside the United States. Heavy maintenance work is defined in 49 U.S.C. § 44733(j) as a C-check, D-check, or equivalent maintenance operation performed on the airframe of a transport-category aircraft (including on-wing aircraft engines).

Air Carriers must submit the annual report to their Certificate Management Office. The FAA will use this data to analyze safety trends and may require appropriate actions by Part 121 or Part 145 certificate holders in response to any safety issue identified.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently processing an Information Collection Request (ICR) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). This process is the legal framework ensuring that federal information collections are necessary, well-justified, and managed to minimize the public's burden while maximizing their benefit. Information related to this ICR, including an example of a method air carriers may use for reporting can be found in Docket Number FAA-2026-1392, here: [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Discussion: 49 U.S.C. § 44733(g) states:

(1) In General- Each fiscal year in which part 121 air carrier has had heavy maintenance work performed on an aircraft owned or operated by such carrier, such carrier shall provide to the

Administrator, not later than the end of the following fiscal year, a report containing the information described in paragraph (2).

(2) Information required. —A report under paragraph (1) shall contain the following:

- (A) The location where any heavy maintenance work on aircraft was performed outside the United States.*
- (B) A description of the work performed at each such location.*
- (C) The date of completion of the work performed at each such location.*
- (D) A list of all failures, malfunctions, or defects affecting the safe operation of such aircraft identified by the air carrier not later than 30 days after the date on which an aircraft is returned to service, organized by reference to aircraft registration number, that—*
 - (i) requires corrective action after the aircraft is approved for return to service; and*
 - (ii) results from such work performed on such aircraft.*
- (E) The certificate number of the person approving such aircraft or on-wing aircraft engine for return to service following completion of the work performed at each such location.*

(3) Analysis. The Administrator shall —

- (A) Analyze information provided under this subsection and sections 121.703, 121.705, 121.707, and 145.221 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provisions of such title, to detect safety issues associated with heavy maintenance work on aircraft performed outside the United States; and*
 - (B) Require appropriate actions by an air carrier or repair station in response to any safety issue identified by the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A).*
- (4) Confidentiality. Information provided under this subsection shall be subject to the same protections given to voluntarily provided safety or security related information under section 40123.*

Recommended Action: Part 121 air carriers should review the information in this InFO, as well as 49 U.S.C. § 44733, to ensure their procedures are established and documented to comply with the annual reporting requirements.

Contact: Direct questions or comments regarding this InFO to the Aircraft Maintenance Division at (202) 267-1675, or via email at 9-AWA-AFS-300-Correspondence@faa.gov.