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Information for Operators

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Subject: Requirements for Aircraft to be Equipped with 25-Hour Cockpit Voice Recorders (CVR).

Purpose: This InFO serves to inform aircraft operators about the updated requirements for CVRs mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration ([FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 \(Public Law 118-63\)](#)) (the Act) and FAA regulations for newly manufactured aircraft. The message aims to ensure operators understand the compliance timelines and actions needed for both newly manufactured and existing aircraft to meet the new 25-hour audio recording capability using a recorder that meets the standards of Technical Standard Order, TSO-C123c, or latest revision.

Background: The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-63) was signed into law on May 16, 2024. Section 366 of the Act requires certain aircraft be equipped with CVRs that retain the last 25 hours of recorded information using a recorder that meets the standards of Technical Standard Order TSO-C123c, or latest revision. The previous requirement was for CVRs to record two hours of audio.

Discussion: The requirements for newly manufactured and existing aircraft are as follows:

Newly Manufactured Aircraft:

The FAA issued a [final rule](#) on February 2, 2026 requiring certain aircraft to have a CVR that captures 25 hours of audio. The final rule applies to aircraft manufactured on or after May 16, 2025, if used in Part 121 air carrier operations or a transport category aircraft designed for operations by an air carrier or foreign air carrier type-certificated with a passenger seating capacity of 30 or more.¹

In addition to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the final rule requires certain other aircraft to be equipped with a CVR that captures 25 hours of audio.

Compliance by February 2, 2027, applies to aircraft that are currently required to be equipped with a CVR if:

- The aircraft was manufactured on or after February 2, 2027,

¹ Reference FAA final rule 2026-02110 (91 FR 4447), titled 25-Hour Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) Requirement, New Aircraft Production, for the explanation of the covered aircraft applicability.

- The aircraft is operated under Parts 91, 125, or 135,
- The aircraft has a Maximum Certificated Takeoff Weight of 59,525lbs./27,000 kg or more, and
- The aircraft has a passenger seating configuration of 29 or fewer passenger seats.

Compliance by February 2, 2029, applies to aircraft that are currently required to be equipped with a CVR if:

- The aircraft was manufactured on or after February 2, 2029,
- The aircraft is operated under parts 91, 125, or 135, and
- The aircraft has a Maximum Certificated Takeoff Weight of 59,524 lbs./26,999 kg or less.

Existing Aircraft

Section 366 of the Act also mandates 25-hour CVRs for certain existing aircraft by May 16, 2030. This requirement applies to aircraft operated by Part 121 air carriers or transport category aircraft designed for operations by an air carrier or foreign air carrier type-certificated with a passenger seating capacity of 30 or more or an all-cargo or combi derivative of such an aircraft.

This requirement, applicable to existing aircraft, is self-enacting legislation, which means it is effective and can be enforced without any additional rulemaking by the FAA.

Recommended Action: Aircraft owners and operators should assess their fleets, engage with CVR and aircraft manufacturers, and allocate necessary resources to comply with these requirements.

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