SUBJECT: Extension to part 135 Extended Operations (ETOPS) compliance date

Purpose: To provide operators with information pertaining to the extension of specific sections of the recently published extended operations (ETOPS) rule.

Summary: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is delaying the compliance date for certain sections of the Extended Operations (ETOPS) final rule, published January 16, 2007, that established regulations governing the design, operation, and maintenance of certain airplanes operated in flights over 180 minutes from an adequate airport. The extended compliance date is necessary to give operators additional time to gain a comprehensive understanding of ETOPS requirements, to develop procedures and training, and to implement safety measures established in the final rule. In addition, the regulatory text for certain sections is amended to reflect this delay of compliance dates. The effective date of this amendment is February 15, 2008. The new compliance date in the Final Rule (72 FR 1808), for §§135.98, 135.345(a)(9), and 135.364, Section G135.2.1 of appendix G to part 135, is delayed by 180 days, from February 16, 2008, to August 13, 2008. The delay of compliance dates for these specific sections of the final rule does not affect any other compliance dates established in Table 2 of Section VI of the preamble to the final rule.

This information was posted to the Federal register on Friday, February 15, 2008, in Volume 73, Number 32, reference Docket number: FAA-1999-6717; Amendment No. 135-112, RIN 2120-A103.

Recommended action: Directors of Operations, Chief Pilots, Directors of Maintenance, Company Check Airmen, Training Managers, and pilots of Part 135 air carriers should be aware of the new ETOPS compliance dates and begin implementing the processes, procedures, manual and training program updates to facilitate ETOPS compliance if so applicable.

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