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Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO

Information for Operators

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

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.

Subject: Continued Eligibility for Rotorcraft Operations without an Installed Radio Altimeter Operation Specification (OpSpec) A160.

Purpose: This InFO provides information to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 135 certificate holders conducting rotorcraft operations with a conditional OpSpec A160 letter of deviation authority (LODA) for operations without an installed radio altimeter, and on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy on OpSpec A160 termination.

Background: In February 2014, the FAA adopted final rule 14 CFR 135.160(b) (79 FR 9931) requiring rotorcraft operating under part 135 to be equipped with a radio altimeter by April 24, 2017. The FAA recognized that a limited number of smaller helicopters used in part 135 operations (e.g., Bell-47, Robinson R-22) may not have adequate room in the flight deck to install a radio altimeter, and included in the rule the ability for a certificate holder to obtain a permanent deviation from the rule. The ability to obtain a permanent deviation is not afforded to helicopters weighing more than 2,950 pounds or in which a radio altimeter can be added to the flight deck's existing configuration.

Discussion: Guidance for FAA inspectors authorizing OpSpec A160 LODA for rotorcraft operations without an installed radio altimeter is found in FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 3. This guidance allows for temporary issuance of OpSpec A160 under certain conditions as detailed in paragraph 3.C. Part 135 certificate holders operating rotorcraft with an authorized OpSpec A160 LODA (e.g., Robinson R-44 model) are reminded that the temporary deviation expires October 24, 2018. By the expiration date, operators must do one of the following:

- 1) Provide a compliance plan to the appropriate Flight Standards (FS) Safety Assurance (SA) office and request them to re-issue a time limited OpSpec A160 allowing continued part 135 operations after October 24, 2018,
- 2) Equip their rotorcraft with a radio altimeter or
- 3) Request the appropriate FS SA office remove the subject rotorcraft from their part 135 operating certificate and OpSpec D085 Aircraft Listing.

Recommended Action: Part 135 certificate holders conducting rotorcraft operations should review and follow the guidance to ensure continued eligibility for operation under part 135 after October 24, 2018.

Additional Information: Additional information is available by clicking on the following links:

- FAA Order 8000.373 Federal Aviation Administration Compliance Philosophy: <http://rgl.faa.gov>

- FAA Order 8900.1 Flight Standards Information Management System, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 3: <http://fsims.faa.gov>
- FAA Order 8900.1 Flight Standards Information Management System, Volume 14, Chapter 1, Sections 1, 2, and 3: <http://fsims.faa.gov>
- 14 CFR § 135.160, Radio altimeters for rotorcraft operations: <https://www.ecfr.gov>
- Office of the Federal Register, Docket Number FAA-2010-0982: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to the Aircraft Maintenance Division at (202) 267-1675.