



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 16004  
Original Issue:02/17/16  
Revised 11/14/22

Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

**[http://www.faa.gov/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/info](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. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.*

**Subject:** Datalink Communications (DLC) Recording Requirements – Clarification.

**Purpose:** This InFO serves to aid in the implementation of the DLC recording requirements of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91, § 91.609 which required compliance by April 6, 2012, and part 121, § 121.359, part 125, § 125.227 and part 135, § 135.151 which required compliance by December 6, 2010.

**Background:** This InFO clarifies how the FAA defines the phrase “install datalink communication (DLC) equipment” for purposes of the DLC recording requirements. Clarification of this policy and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance material is intended to assist aircraft operators in determining when DLC recording is required. For complete background information on this issue, please see Docket No. [FAA-2015-0289](#).

**Discussion:**

**A. Definition of Datalink Communication (DLC) Equipment:** “Datalink communication (DLC) equipment” as used in these regulations, includes the components installed on the aircraft that are necessary to provide the DLC function. The DLC function uses an approved message set, as determined by Advisory Circular (AC) 20-160 as revised, (e.g., CPDLC application hosted in the Flight Management Computer), the datalink router (e.g., hosted in the Communications Management Unit), the radios (e.g., VHF, HF Datalink, Satcom), and related antennas. FANS 1/A and ATN B1 systems comprise DLC equipment. See AC 20-140 as revised for additional information.

**B. Applicability:** In applying this regulation, aircraft are divided into two groups: those manufactured on or after the effective date of the rule, and those manufactured before that date.

Those airplanes or rotorcraft manufactured on or after the effective date must record messages that use the approved message set when both of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The aircraft is required to have both a cockpit voice recorder and a flight data recorder;  
and

- 2) The aircraft has DLC equipment installed.

Those airplanes or rotorcraft manufactured before the effective date of the rule must record messages that use the approved message set when both of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The aircraft is required to have both a cockpit voice recorder and a flight data recorder;  
and
- 2) No DLC equipment for the MAKE/MODEL/SERIES of the aircraft was approved before the effective date of the rule.

**Recommended Action:** Operators and avionics installers should use the information contained in this InFO to ensure compliance with applicable regulations when considering DLC modifications.

**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-Maintenance@faa.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AFS-300-Maintenance@faa.gov).