



Federal Aviation Administration

National Part 139 Cert Alert

****Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive****

Date: 9/08/2023 **23-06**

To: Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 139
Certificated Airport Operators

Subject: Review and/or Revision of Aircraft Towing/Ground Handling
Procedures for the Safety of the Wing and/or Tail Walkers

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1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this CertAlert is to inform 14 CFR Part 139 certificate holders of FAA's [Safety Alert for Operators \(SAFO\) 23006, Review and/or Revision of Aircraft Towing/Ground Handling Procedures for the Safety of the Wing and/or Tail Walkers](#), which directs air carriers to review and revise safety procedures for towing and marshaling aircraft.
2. **Background.** FAA Flight Standards Service issues SAFOs to alert, educate and make recommendations to aircraft operators, particularly those that conduct air carrier operations. SAFO 23006 was issued after multiple events where injuries, including fatal injuries, have occurred during aircraft towing or ground handling operations. The alert—
 - a. Reminds air carrier operators and ground handling staff about the importance of personnel remaining clear of an aircraft in tow until it has come to a complete stop and chocks are installed.
 - b. Recommends procedures that require all personnel to remain clear of operating engines until they are shut down.
 - c. Recommends air carriers review their Safety Management System (SMS) to ensure aircraft towing and marshaling procedures include the standards incorporated in the current edition of [FAA Advisory Circular \(AC\) 00-65A, Towbar and Towbarless Movement of Aircraft](#).
3. **Recommended Actions.** 14 CFR Part 139 certificate holders should review SAFO 23006 and AC 00-65A and consider incorporating additional training topics, as appropriate, into their vehicle/pedestrian drivers training program required under 14 CFR Part 139.329. Additional training topics may include aircraft towing speeds, aircraft towing or marshalling restrictions on ramps, situational awareness in the ramp environment, and


proper communication techniques, such as standard clearance terminology for air traffic control clearance.

To ensure the safety of personnel whose duties include the towing and marshalling of aircraft, the FAA strongly recommends 14 CFR Part 139 certificate holders review all current existing towing and vehicle procedures on aircraft ramps to identify any potential safety gaps. This review should include coordination with tenant air carriers and FBOs to ensure such personnel are trained on ramp safety procedures.

Those 14 CFR Part 139 certificate holders required to develop and implement a Safety Management System (SMS) under 14 CFR Part 139.401 should include their review of aircraft towing and marshalling procedures in their SMS safety gap analysis or use an existing safety risk management and safety assurance process to review such procedures.

4. Questions. Direct questions or comments about—

- a. SAFO 23006 to FAA's Aircraft Maintenance Division by emailing 9-AWA-AFS-300-Correspondence@faa.gov or calling (202) 267-1675.
- b. Compliance with 14 CFR Part 139 requirements, including those for vehicle training or SMS, to the FAA Airport Certification and Safety Inspector assigned to your airport.



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9/8/2023

Date