

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Federal Aviation Administration

## 14 CFR Parts 119, 121, 129, 135, and 183

[Docket No. FAA-1999-5401; Notice No. 99-02]

RIN 2120-AE42

## Aging Airplane Safety

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On April 2, 1999, the FAA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding aging aircraft safety and invited comments for a 120-day period. The comment period closed on August 2, 1999; however, the FAA is reopening the comment period for an additional 60 days in response to a request from the National Air Transportation Association (NATA). Per NATA, the reopening of the comment period is needed to allow small businesses whose operations are especially busy during the spring and summer additional time to evaluate the extensive proposal.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 18, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the proposed rulemaking should be mailed or delivered, in triplicate, to: U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-1999-5401, 400 Seventh St. SW., Room Plaza 401, Washington, DC 20590. Comments also may be submitted electronically to the following Internet address: 9-NPRM-CMTS@faa.gov. Comments may be filed and/or examined in Room Plaza 401, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frederick Sobeck, Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300), Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-7355.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Comments Invited**

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they desire. Comments relating to the environmental, energy, federalism, or economic impact that might result from adopting the proposals in this notice also are invited. Substantive comments should be accompanied by cost estimates. Comments must identify the regulatory docket or notice number and be submitted in triplicate to the Rules Docket address specified above.

All comments received, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel on this rulemaking, will be filed in the docket. The docket is available for public inspection before and after the comment closing date.

All comments received on or before the closing date will be considered by the Administrator before taking action on this proposed rulemaking. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable. The proposals contained in this NPRM may be changed in light of the comments received.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this NPRM must include a pre-addressed, stamped postcard with those comments on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. FAA-1999-5401." The postcard will be date stamped and mailed to the commenter.

**Availability of NPRMs**

Using a modem and suitable communications software, an electronic copy of this document may be downloaded from the FAA regulations section of the FedWorld electronic bulletin board service (telephone: (703) 321-3339), or the **Federal Register's** electronic bulletin board service (telephone: (202) 512-1661).

Internet users may reach the FAA's web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm/nprm.htm> or the Government Printing Office's webpage at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara> for access to recently published rulemaking documents.

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-1, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-9680. Communications must identify the notice number or docket number of this NPRM.

Persons interested in being placed on the mailing list for future NPRMs should request from the above office a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

**Background**

On March 19, 1999, the FAA issued NPRM 99-02 (63 FR 16298, April 2, 1999). The NPRM proposed to require all airplanes operated under part 121 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), all U.S.-registered multiengine airplanes operated under 14 CFR part 129, and all multiengine airplanes used in scheduled operations under 14 CFR part 135 to undergo records reviews and inspections by the Administrator after their 14th year in service to ensure that the maintenance of all these airplanes' age-sensitive parts and components has been adequate and timely. The comment period closed August 2, 1999.

By letter dated July 26, 1999, the NATA requested that the comment period be extended by an additional 60 days in order to give the companies of small businesses whose operations are especially busy during the spring and summer additional time to complete an economic analysis, audit the impact of this proposal on scheduled air carriers, evaluate the economic impact of this proposal on aviation businesses, and to develop meaningful comments to this proposal.

The FAA finds that it is in the public interest to reopen the comment period for sixty (60) days.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 12, 1999.

**L. Nicholas Lacey,**

*Director, Flight Standards Service.*

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