



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

Transport Airplane Directorate
1601 Lind Ave, SW.
Renton, Washington 98057-3356

May 15, 2009

Exemption No. 9871
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2008-1184

Mr. Phillip T. Crawford, P.E.
DAS Administrator
L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, L.P.
P.O. Box 154580
Waco, Texas 76715-4580

Dear Mr. Crawford:

This letter is to inform you that we have granted your request for exemption. It transmits our decision, explains its basis, and gives you the conditions and limitations of the exemption, including the date it ends.

The Basis for Our Decision

By letter dated October 28, 2008, you petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of L-3 Communications Integrated Systems for an exemption from § 26.47 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) to the extent necessary to allow L-3 Communications Integrated Systems to eliminate activity on § 26.47 *Holders of and applicants for a supplemental type certificate – Alterations and repairs to alterations*. Section 26.47 requires developing damage tolerance data for aircraft alterations and repairs. This damage tolerance data would be required for the structural modifications performed under its petitioned supplemental type certificate (STC) shown in Table 1.

Table 1. L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, Petitioned STC

STC Number	Airplane Model	Serial Number
ST09097AC-D	Boeing 747SP	21649

Project No.: ANM-09-046-E

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the *Federal Register* because the requested exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems.

The FAA has issued a grant of exemption in circumstances similar in all material respects to those presented in your petition. In Grant of Exemption No. 9818 (copy enclosed), the FAA found that these airplanes have been heavily modified for Head-of-State VIP use by a foreign government. Eight of the twelve STCs have been verified by their foreign owner with letters showing that “the aircraft thus is not for hire or reward or public transport (passengers or cargo). There is every intention to keep the aircraft in its existing role.” The remaining four STCs were installed on airplanes for foreign governments who have subsequently sold those airplanes. Therefore, the FAA finds that it is unlikely these airplanes will be used in service under parts 121 or 129 in the future.

In Grant of Exemption No. 9818, the FAA used several methods of verifying that the airplanes are not presently operated, nor in the future will be operated, in common carriage. In this current request, the owner of the airplane has indicated that, at this time, it has no intention of operating its airplane under parts 121 or 129, or as a foreign air carrier. (Refer to Docket ID FAA-2008-1184-0004 in the Department of Transportation’s Federal Docket Management System at <http://www.regulations.gov>.)

Having reviewed your reasons for requesting an exemption, I find that—

- they don’t differ materially from those presented by the petitioner in the enclosed grant of exemption;
- the reasons stated by the FAA for granting the enclosed exemption also apply to the situation you present; and
- a grant of exemption is in the public interest.

Our Decision

Under the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. 40113 and 44701, which the FAA Administrator has delegated to me, I hereby grant L-3 Communications Integrated Systems an exemption from 14 CFR § 26.47 for the one STC installed on the airplane listed in Table 1, subject to the conditions and limits described below.

Conditions and Limitations

This exemption grants relief to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems from having to meet the requirements of § 26.47 for the development of damage tolerance data for repairs and alterations. This exemption does not grant relief from the related operational requirements contained in §§ 121.1109 or 129.109. Should a person choose to operate, under part 121 or part 129, the airplane identified in Table 1 for which this exemption is hereby granted, beyond

the operational compliance deadlines as stated in §§ 121.1109 and 129.109, that person will be required to comply with those operational requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Bahrami', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ali Bahrami
Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate
Aircraft Certification Service

Enclosure

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
RENTON, WASHINGTON 98057-3356

In the matter of the petition of

L-3 Communications Integrated Systems

for an exemption from § 26.47 of Title 14,
Code of Federal Regulations

Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2008-1136

GRANT OF EXEMPTION

By a submission to the Department of Transportation's Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) dated October 22, 2008, Mr. Phillip T. Crawford, P.E., of L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, P.O. Box 154580, Waco, Texas 76715-4580, petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for an exemption from the requirements of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) 26.47. This exemption is requested for 12 Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) installed on 7 airplanes.

The petitioner requests relief from the following regulation: § 26.47 *Holders of and applicants for a supplemental type certificate – Alterations and repairs to alterations*, which requires developing damage tolerance data for aircraft alterations and repairs.

The petitioner supports its request with the following: The information below is quoted from Mr. Crawford's petition letter, dated October 20, 2008. Additional correspondence from Mr. Crawford is posted in FDMS and provides additional information on the future use of these airplanes.

Justification and Safety Considerations

The justification for granting this petition is based upon the foreign VIP Head-of-State use of these STCs and the fact that the granting of this petition will not adversely affect the safety of the U.S. public flying in common-carriage. Returning the aircraft to civil configuration and U.S. registry and then placing the aircraft into U.S. common-carriage is extremely unlikely due to the cost of de-modification, the age of the aircraft, as well as the easy availability of other U.S. civil certified aircraft of these types already in use.

U.S. Public Interest

Granting this petition is clearly in the U.S. public interest because . . .

- These aircraft are registered in a foreign country and are not and will not be used in U.S. 14 CFR 121 or 14 CFR 129 common-carriage service beyond December 10, 2010 for AASFR and March 10, 2011 for EAPAS and;
- No U.S. public interest is affected since these aircraft are non-U.S. Registered aircraft and are in the service of the government of a foreign country

The STCs identified in the petition are shown in Table 1:

Table 1. L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, Petitioned STCs

STC Number	Airplane Model	Serial Number
ST09095AC-D	Airbus A340-200	046
ST09096AC-D		
ST9759SC-D	Airbus A340-200	004
ST09092AC-D	Airbus A340-211	009
ST09099AC-D	Airbus A340-213	151
ST09093AC-D	Boeing 747-430	26426
SA8843SW-D		
SA8844SW		
ST9762SC-D		
ST09098AC-D	Boeing 747SP	23610
ST09022AC-D	Boeing 767-200	25537
ST09094AC-D		

Federal Register publication

A summary of the petition was published in the *Federal Register* on January 13, 2009 (74 FR 1753). No comments were received regarding the exemption request.

The FAA's analysis

The FAA has developed criteria to consider when deciding whether to grant or deny a design approval holder's (DAH) petition for exemption from part 26 requirements. These criteria were meant as a general guide to making decisions about such requests and were not developed for any specific request. The FAA uses these criteria as a starting point for making its decision. However, other factors may also be considered before a final decision is made on any particular exemption request. The criteria are given in Table 2.

**Table 2. Criteria for Considering Eligibility for Exemption
from §§ 26.11, 26.43, 26.45, 26.47, or 26.49**

	If the airworthiness authority for the state of design is	And	And	And	Then
1	The FAA	No airplanes are operating under part 121, and it is unlikely that any will do so in the future ³	No airplanes are operating under part 129 (N-registered), and it is unlikely that any will do so in the future ³	No airplanes are being operated by a foreign air carrier, and it is unlikely that any will do so in the future ³	The DAH may be eligible for an exemption
2	The FAA	Airplanes are operating under part 121 but no airplanes will be operated under part 121 after the operational rule compliance date ¹ , and it is unlikely that any will return to such service in the future ³	Airplanes are operating under part 129 (N-registered) but no airplanes will be operated under part 129 (N-registered) after the operational rule compliance date ¹ , and it is unlikely that any will return to such service in the future ³	Airplanes are being operated by a foreign air carrier but no airplanes will be operated by a foreign air carrier after the operational rule compliance date ¹ , and it is unlikely that any will return to such service in the future ³	The DAH may be eligible for an exemption
3	Not the FAA	No airplanes are operating under part 121, and it is unlikely that any will do so in the future ³	No airplanes are operating under part 129 (N-registered), and it is unlikely that any will do so in the future ³		The DAH may be eligible for an exemption
4	Not the FAA	Airplanes are operating under part 121 but no airplanes will be operated under part 121 after the operational rule compliance date ² , and it is unlikely that any will return to such service in the future ³	Airplanes are operating under part 129 (N-registered) but no airplanes will be operated under part 129 (N-registered) after the operational rule compliance date ² , and it is unlikely that any will return to such service in the future ³		The DAH may be eligible for an exemption

¹ The DAH must demonstrate that these airplanes will not be operating under part 121 or part 129, or operated by a foreign air carrier, after the operational rule compliance date by obtaining documentation of such from the current owners/operators of the airplanes.

² The design approval holder must demonstrate that these airplanes will not be operating under part 121 or part 129 after the operational rule compliance date by obtaining documentation of such from the current owners/operators of the airplanes.

³ Arguments for the likelihood of an airplane not entering into air carrier service in the future should center on the airplane's age and/or current configuration.

The determination of whether an airplane is operating under part 121 or part 129 is based on whether that particular airplane is listed on an air carrier's Operations Specifications.

The rationale behind the criteria contained in Table 2 is this: The rule(s) require(s) DAHs to develop data for use by operators. If there are no operators for a particular airplane who are required by the rules to use such data, it would be a poor use of resources for the DAH to develop it. Therefore, it would benefit both the DAH and the public as a whole to spend resources on more important safety issues rather than on developing data that will not be used. In addition, granting such an exemption would not adversely affect safety because there are no airplanes that would be required to incorporate the data, nor is it likely that there will be any in the future.

The FAA has reviewed L-3 Communications Integrated Systems petition and has determined that granting this exemption would not have an adverse effect on public safety and would be in the public interest based on the following information:

The FAA notes that these airplanes have been heavily modified for Head-of-State VIP use by a foreign government. Eight of the twelve STCs have been verified by their foreign owner with letters showing that "the aircraft thus is not for hire or reward or public transport (passengers or cargo). There is every intention to keep the aircraft in its existing role." The remaining four STCs were installed on airplanes for foreign governments who have subsequently sold those airplanes. L-3 Communications Integrated Systems has found evidence online at <http://www.airfleet.net/> that shows these airplanes are currently operated by foreign governments. This information is detailed in an e-mail, which has been posted on FDMS. These airplanes have not operated under, nor been maintained under, the oversight of any civil regulatory agency. Converting any of these airplanes for common-carriage operation is impractical, considering the airplane age and the cost to de-modify, update all maintenance to the original equipment manufacturer's program, conform with all airworthiness directives, confirm conformity to type design, and equip for common-carriage. Therefore, the FAA finds that it is unlikely these airplanes will be used in service under part 121 or part 129 in the future.

As a result, L-3 Communications Integrated Systems modified airplanes meet the baseline exemption criteria for part 26. There are no other factors to be considered regarding the 12 STCs installed on the 7 airplanes identified in the petition for exemption.

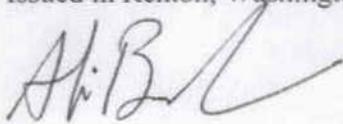
Additional Information

This exemption grants relief to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems from having to meet the requirements of § 26.47 for the development of damage tolerance data for repairs and alterations. This exemption does not grant relief from the related operational requirements contained in §§ 121.1109 or 129.109. Should a person choose to operate, under part 121 or part 129, any of the airplanes identified in Table 1 for which exemption is hereby granted, beyond the operational compliance deadlines as stated in §§ 121.1109 and 129.109, that person will be required to comply with those operational requirements.

The FAA's decision

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. §§ 40113 and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator, L-3 Communications Integrated Systems is hereby granted an exemption from § 26.47 for the 12 STCs installed on the 7 airplanes, as listed in Table 1.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on FEB 05 2009



Ali Bahrami
Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate
Aircraft Certification Service