

Title 14—AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

Chapter I—Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation

[Docket No. 8788; Amdt. 103-5]

PART 103—TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS ARTICLES AND MAGNETIZED MATERIALS

Carriage of Extra Aviation Fuel by Small Helicopters

The purpose of this amendment to Part 103 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is to permit small helicopters to carry 20 gallons of aviation fuel on external racks when operated in remote areas of the United States.

This amendment was originally proposed as Notice of Proposed Rule Making 68-8 which was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on March 30, 1968 (33 F.R. 5227). Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposal and all comments have been considered.

The comments were generally in favor of the rule as proposed. However, one comment stated that the necessity of carrying the metal fuel containers within fiberboard or wooden boxes was unnecessarily restrictive. The FAA does not agree. Outside containers are considered necessary to protect the metal fuel containers from damage that might cause leakage.

Another commentator pointed out that, under the proposed rule, 5-gallon fuel containers could not be carried in wooden boxes although this would obviously be a safer procedure. In response to this comment, the rule authorizes the use of either wood or DOT specification fiberboard boxes to enclose metal fuel containers of not more than 5 gallons capacity.

It has also been suggested that the proposed rule would be more advantageous if the maximum amount of additional fuel allowed was a percentage of an aircraft's normal fuel capacity, rather than an arbitrary value of 20 gallons. The intent of the amendment is somewhat narrower than this. It has been determined that an additional 20 gallons of fuel provides an adequate increase in range to those aircraft within contemplation of the proposed rule. Furthermore, when carried externally, the amount of additional fuel necessary to provide a larger helicopter with any appreciable increase in range would create an unacceptable hazard.

In consideration of the foregoing and for the reasons set forth in Notice 68-8, § 103.33 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is amended, effective November 16, 1968, to read as follows:

§ 103.33 Transportation of gasoline, kerosene, or aviation fuel in small aircraft.

A small aircraft operated entirely within the State of Alaska or a small helicopter operated into a remote area in the United States may carry, in other than scheduled passenger-carrying operations, not more than 20 gallons of gasoline, kerosene, or aviation fuel, if—

(a) Transportation by air is the only practical means of providing suitable fuel;

(b) The flight is necessary to meet the needs of the passenger;

(c) The fuel is carried in metal containers that are either—

(1) DOT (Department of Transportation) Specification 2A containers of not more than 5 gallons capacity, each packed inside a DOT Specification 12B fiberboard box or each packed inside a DOT Specification 15A, 15B, 15C, 16A, 19A, or 19B wooden box or, for small aircraft in Alaska, each packed inside a wooden box of at least one-half inch thickness;

(2) Airtight, leakproof, inside containers of not more than 10 gallons capacity and of at least 28-gauge metal, each packed inside a DOT Specification 15A, 15B, 15C, 16A, 19A, or 19B wooden box or, for small aircraft in Alaska, each packed inside a wooden box of at least one-half inch thickness;

(d) On helicopters, the fuel is carried on external cargo racks;

(e) The area or compartment in which the fuel is loaded is ventilated so as to prevent the accumulation of fumes;

(f) Before each flight, the pilot in command—

(1) Informs each passenger of the location of the fuel and the hazards involved; and

(2) Prohibits smoking, lighting matches, the carrying of any lighter, cigar, pipe, cigarette, or flame, and the use of anything that might cause an open flame or spark, while loading or unloading or in flight; and

(g) Fuel is transferred to the fuel tanks only while the aircraft is on the surface.

(Secs. 313(a) and 601(c) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958; 49 U.S.C. 1354(a) and 1421(c))

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 10, 1968.

D. D. THOMAS,
Acting Administrator.

(As published in the Federal Register 33 F.R. 15412 on Oct. 17, 1968)