

Title 14—AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

Chapter I—Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation

[Docket No. 11422, Amdt. 1-22]

PART 1—DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Extended Over-Water Operations

The purpose of this amendment to Part 1 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is to accommodate the use of helicopters in various types of operations requiring them to operate at distances greater than 50 miles from the nearest shoreline.

This amendment is based on a notice of proposed rule making (Notice 71-27) published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on September 28, 1971 (36 F.R. 19091).

This amendment to the definition of "extended over-water operation" makes a distinction between those operations conducted with aircraft other than helicopters and those conducted with helicopters. Specifically, this amendment changes the definition to make it encompass a helicopter only if it is being operated more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline and is not within 50 nautical miles of an off-shore heliport structure.

Comments received in response to Notice 71-27 were almost unanimous in their approval of the proposed amendment. Certain comments expressed the opinion that the definition as amended herein would be detrimental to safety considering the limited gliding ability and seaworthiness of helicopters. However, we do not believe such an opinion is supported by helicopter operating experience under the current definition, which has permitted operations to be conducted up to a distance of 50 miles from the nearest shoreline before coming within the definition of an extended over-water operation, and it is reasonable to assume that operating experience will not differ for helicopter operations conducted up to 50 miles from an off-shore

heliport structure, as provided for in the amendment.

With respect to this amendment, it will be noted that two conditions must be satisfied in order for a helicopter operation to become an "extended over-water operation." First, the operation must be over water at a horizontal distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline; and second, it must be more than 50 nautical miles from an off-shore heliport structure. Accordingly, the operation of a helicopter does not constitute an extended over-water operation when it is being operated within 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline, nor does it constitute such an operation when more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline, if it is being operated within 50 nautical miles of an off-shore heliport structure.

This amendment differs from the proposal by omitting the word "suitable" in describing an "off-shore heliport structure," to ensure consistency with the definition of the term "heliport" as currently prescribed in Part 1.

In consideration of the foregoing, the definition of "extended over-water operation" in § 1.1 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is amended, effective April 14, 1972, to read as follows:

§ 1.1 General definitions.

* * * * *

"Extended over-water operation" means—

(1) With respect to aircraft other than helicopters, and operation over water at a horizontal distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline; and

(2) With respect to helicopters, an operation over water at a horizontal distance of more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline and more than 50 nautical miles from an off-shore heliport structure.

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(Sec. 313(a), Federal Aviation Act of 1958, 49 U.S.C. 1354(a); sec. 6(c), Department of Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. 1655(c))

Issued in Washington, D.C., on April 10, 1972.

J. H. SHAFFER,
Administrator.

(As published in the Federal Register 37 F.R. 7386 on April 14, 1972)