

[Docket No. 15551; Amdt. No. 152-3]
PART 152—AIRPORT AID PROGRAM
Eligibility of Visual Approach Slope
Indicators

The purpose of this amendment to Part 152 of the Federal Aviation Regulations is to eliminate the requirement in § 152.103(h) (2) that two-box VASI (VASI-2) be installed with new construction of medium intensity runway lights (MIRL) on runways at airports serving small aircraft (other than turbojet powered aircraft).

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment by a notice of proposed rulemaking (Notice No. 76-11) issued on April 2, 1976, and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on April 12, 1976 (41 FR 15350). Due consideration has been given to all comments received in response to that Notice.

Notice No. 76-11 stated that the mandatory requirement for installation of VASI-2 with the installation of MIRL had, because of the additional installation costs, impeded the installation of MIRL at airports eligible under the Airport and Airway Development Program, and pointed out that the installation of VASI offered no operational advantage, in terms of lower landing minimums

under the criteria (U.S. Standard for Terminal Instrument Approach Procedures) applicable to instrument approach procedures developed and issued under Part 97 of the FAR's (Standard Instrument Approach Procedures).

Comments received in response to the notice were generally favorable and recognized that elimination of the mandatory requirement for VASI would encourage and facilitate installation of MIRL at eligible airports where the additional cost of VASI might be impeding or prohibitive. Two comments cited the VASI as a very desirable approach aid for both VFR night approaches and day or night instrument approaches, and recommended that VASI be installed on a broader scale at air carrier and general aviation airports.

The FAA agrees that VASI is a valuable approach aid and wishes to emphasize that under this amendment VASI continues to be an eligible item for airport development. In addition, the FAA has recently contracted for the installation of over 300 VASI's at airports across the nation. This program supplements the VASI systems now installed at approximately 1100 airports.

Since this amendment relates to public grants and relieves a restriction, it may be made effective on less than 30 days notice.

(Secs. 11-27 Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 220-233); § 1.47(g)(1) Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (49 CFR 1.47(g)(1)).)

In consideration of the foregoing, § 152.103(h) (2) of the Federal Aviation Regulations is amended effective August 26, 1976, to read as follows:

§ 152.103 Lighting and electrical work: specific.

* * * * *

(h) * * * * *

(2) A two-box Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI-2) is eligible on lighted runways not used by turbojet powered aircraft. The VASI-2 is also eligible for installation on runways with an approach slope deficiency and for retrofitting existing runways on such of those airports that have MIRL installed.

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Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 26, 1976.

JOHN L. McLUCAS,
 Administrator.

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