

CertAlert

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This CertAlert pertains to:
All FAR Part 139 Airports

Publication of Revised 14 CFR part 139: Certification of Airports Information Update: 1

The FAA has published the final rule of the new 14 CFR part 139. It was entered into the Federal Register with an effective date of Tuesday, February 10, 2004. The Final Rule will then become effective 120 days after being published in the Federal Register, and thus will officially become effective June 09, 2004.

As a reminder, the Part 139 final rule requires the certification of airports serving scheduled operation of air carrier aircraft with 10-30 seats, modifies the certification process to incorporate all airports covered by the authorizing statute and revises many operational and safety requirements in response to technological changes, petitions for rulemaking, and NTSB recommendations.

The revised Part 139 continues to require airport operators choosing to serve certain air carrier operations to document their procedures for complying with Part 139 as well as complying with defined safety and operational requirements. The final rule requires all covered airport operators to submit an Airport Certification Manual (ACM) tailored to each airport for the FAA's approval. Airport operators that currently hold an Airport Operating Certificate (AOC) already have an ACM and will need to revise this document to comply with the revised part 139. Airport operators that currently hold a Limited AOC have a modified version of an ACM, known as an Airport Certification Specifications (ACS). Under the final rule, all ACSs must be converted to ACMs.

Instead of differentiating between an AOC and a Limited AOC and creating additional types of airport operating certificates, the revised Part 139 requires only one type of certificate (an AOC) and requires all airport certificate holders to adopt and implement an ACM, regardless of size and type of air carrier operations. The revised Part 139, however, continues to distinguish among airports that serve different sizes or types of air carrier aircraft and establishes requirements appropriate for each type of airport. The revised Part 139 categorizes similar airports into four new classes – Classes I, II, III, and IV – and establishes requirements for each new class of airport.

There will be specific compliance dates associated with the revised portions of 139. These dates will vary slightly, depending on the class of airport involved. In addition, the various revisions to 139 are too numerous to detail in the CertAlert format. Thus, to aid you in understanding the requirements of the new 139, the FAA has developed a webpage detailing the new 139 and its various regulatory requirements, including compliance dates.

Visitors can access the FAA site at <http://www.faa.gov/arp/certification/part139/>. It can also be accessed by selecting the "New Federal Airport Certification Requirements" link under "News & Announcements" on the Airports home page (<http://www.faa.gov/arp>).

In addition, the Southern Region Certification/Safety team may present at various conferences throughout the region to update airport operators on the new 139. If such conferences are scheduled, we will send you notices of scheduled 139 presentations as we are made aware of them, including locations and times of the events.

We will also be sending out periodic 139 updates using the CertAlert system to keep you up-to-date on regulatory items and pending compliance dates. This CertAlert is the first in the series of such informational updates regarding the new regulation and as such is titled 'Information Update #1'. Additional information updates will be numbered sequentially from #1. We will continue to issue updates until such time that we determine that they are no longer needed.

Please feel free to contact your ACSI if you have any questions regarding the new 139. Working together, we will ensure compliance with the new 139 and thus as a result, provide enhanced safety for the traveling public.

-- Your Airport Certification/Safety Team