CertAlert

Issued: 8/4/2005   Number SO-05-12

This CertAlert pertains to:
All Class II and IV Airports

Index A - Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Requirements

With the recent changes to 14 CFR Part 139, there are presently thirty Class II and IV airports in the Southern Region. These airports are now required to provide equipment and personnel to meet at least Index A ARFF coverage during all air carrier operations, no later than 36 consecutive calendar months after June 9, 2004. Many of these airports do not currently meet Index A requirements. Class II and IV airports should plan now to acquire new equipment to meet this requirement in accordance with the regulation. Equipment must comply with Index A type equipment as stated in the regulation. Equipment and agents for an Index A are one vehicle carrying at least (1) 500 pounds of sodium-based dry chemical, halon 1211, or clean agent or (2) 450 pounds of potassium-based dry chemical and water with a commensurate quantity of AFFF to total 100 gallons for simultaneous dry chemical and AFFF application.

We encourage all airports to begin planning to meet these requirements as soon as possible. This also includes providing adequately trained personnel, among other operational requirements. All ARFF personnel will need to be trained prior to initial performance of ARFF duties and receive recurrent instruction every 12 consecutive calendar months, in eleven different subject areas, in addition to live-fire training.   A curriculum needs to be developed to ensure adequate training is accomplished. FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5210-17, Programs for Training Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Personnel, provides information on available courses and reference materials. This AC can be downloaded from the FAA website at the following address: http://www.faa.gov/arp/150acs.cfm. Note that the FAA Standardized Basic ARFF Curriculum listed in this AC has been replaced with the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Computer-Based Training CD-ROM, available from the National Technical Information Service at www.ntis.gov.

Failure to implement Index A ARFF requirements by June 9, 2007, may result in a civil penalty or certificate action. With less than 24 calendar months left, airport operators that do not meet these requirements should take action now. If you have any questions please contact your Airport Certification and Safety Inspector.

From your Southern Region Airport Certification and Safety Team