CERTALERT

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FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT CERTIFICATION BRANCH, AAS-310

DATE: December 7, 1998 No. 98-08

TO: Airport Operators,

FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspectors

TOPIC: New Sand Specification.

Research by our Technical Center, the Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research Laboratory, and Transport Canada has shown that our specification for runway sand could be relaxed without affecting safety. Application rates, however, will probably need to be adjusted based on local experience with a particular supplier.

The new standard allows the use of any sand subject to maximum and minimum particle sizes. These limits were established with the help of aircraft engine manufacturers, who indicated that the potential for engine damage increases with the ingestion of particles outside the specified range.

While the old specification allowed particles passing a #4 sieve but retained on a #8 sieve; the allowable quantity of such was limited to 3% by weight. The change in maximum particle size has relatively little effect, and existing stockpiles of sand meeting the old specification can be used rather than discarded.

The new sand specification is detailed in Change 3 to advisory circular 150/5200-30A, *Airport Winter Safety and Operations*. Questions may be directed to Rick Marinelli at (202) 267-7669.

OSB

Benedict D. Castellano, Manager
Airport Safety and Certification Branch

December 7, 1998

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