CERTALERT

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FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT CERTIFICATION BRANCH, AAS-310 / (202) 267-8728

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 1996 NO. 96-01

TO: AIRPORT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTORS

TOPIC: ANNUAL LIVE FIRE DRILL QUALIFICATION

Certificate holders are required to ensure that all firefighting personnel participate in at least one live-fire drill every 12 months. We strongly encourage all firefighting personnel meet the requirement for the annual fire training with a ground fire exercise and augment or supplement the training with interior and exterior simulations.

However, realizing that many ARFF crews may not obtain live-fire drills more than once a year, and that there is a benefit for these crews to have experience in interior/exterior simulations as well as ground fires, we are adopting the following policy:

To meet the annual requirement, Index A & B airport firefighters may use a ground fire pit of an appropriate size or an interior/exterior ARFF simulator.

Index C, D, and E airport firefighters may substitute an interior/exterior fire simulation every other year. While the substitution of an interior/exterior fire simulation is optional, the ground fire pit is not. In other words, there can not be two interior/exterior fire simulator training exercises in two consecutive years which count as the annual training requirement.

The interior/exterior fire training simulator may be stationary or mobile and must be a size commensurate with the appropriate index. Advisory Circular 150/5220-17 provides detailed guidance on design standards for an aircraft rescue and firefighting facilities. Until the AC is changed to include mobile ARFF simulators, FAA will review the mobile simulators to find whether the simulator provides an acceptable level of training.

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For an interior/exterior fire exercise to satisfy the requirements of 139.319(j)(3) the exercise shall include at least two of the following simulations:			
1.)	An interior fire	3.)	A wheel well fire
2.)	An engine fire	4.)	An APU fire
The ASCI shall verify the training and whether an interior simulator or a ground fire pit was used.			
Daniel D	OSB		10-23-96
	. Castellano, Manager		Date
Airport Safety and Compliance Branch			

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