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of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO

Information for Operators

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http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.

Subject: Towbar and Towbarless (Super Tug) Towing of Aircraft

Purpose: To prevent towing related runway incursions by emphasizing the importance of adhering to pertinent guidance and regulations.

Background: On April 6, 2008 a runway incursion occurred involving the operation of a Goldhofer towbarless tug at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport (DFW).

Discussion: Towbarless towing of aircraft has become more popular in recent years. Current guidance and regulations are not specific to towbar or towbarless towing operations, however the following regulations and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance apply:

- Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91, § 91.209(a)(2), relating to lighting.
- 14 CFR part 139, § 139.329(e), relating to training.
- Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5210-20, Ground Vehicle Operations on Airports, containing specifications and standards for painted markings, and lighting of surface vehicles.
- AC 00-34A, Aircraft Ground Handling and Servicing, containing good operating practices.

http://www.airweb.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAdvisoryCircular.nsf/MainFrame?OpenFrameSet

Two of the most important points in these ACs, are that:

- The overall responsibility for the operation of vehicles on an airport rests with the airport operator.
- No less than two people should be used to tow large aircraft, including a qualified person in the cockpit to operate the aircraft brakes (in an emergency situation), and a qualified tow vehicle operator.

Recommended Action: Airport operators, directors of safety, directors of operations, trainers, and ground handling personnel, should be familiar with the content of this InFO, and should collaborate to ensure that it is included in operations and training.

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