

FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Standards Office.

**Note:** This AD applies to each sailplane identified in paragraph (a) of this AD, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For sailplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (e) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if you have not eliminated the unsafe condition, specific actions you propose to address it.

(f) *Where can I get information about any already-approved alternative methods of compliance?* Contact Mike Kiesov, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4144; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

(g) *What if I need to fly the sailplane to another location to comply with this AD?* The FAA can issue a special flight permit under sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate your sailplane to a location where you can accomplish the requirements of this AD.

(h) *How do I get copies of the documents referenced in this AD?* You may get copies of the documents referenced in this AD from Stemme GmbH & Co. KG, Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25, D-13355 Berlin, Germany; telephone: 49.33.41.31.11.70; facsimile: 49.33.41.31.11.73. You may view these documents at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 8, 2003.

**Dorenda D. Baker,**

*Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,  
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-673 Filed 1-13-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 158

[Docket No. FAA-2002-13918; Notice No. 02-19]

RIN 2120-AH43

#### Revisions to Passenger Facility Charge Rule for Compensation to Air Carriers; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM); extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This action extends the comment period for an NPRM the FAA issued on November 20, 2002. In that document, the FAA proposed to amend the passenger facility charge regulation (PFC) by changing the amount and unit of collection that a carrier may retain for collecting and handling PFC revenue. This extension is a result of a joint request from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the Airports Council International—North America (ACI-NA).

**DATES:** Send your comments on or before February 12, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify the docket number FAA-2002-13918 at the beginning of your comments, and you should send two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that FAA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

You may also send comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing comments to these proposed regulations in person in the Docket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Hebert, Passenger Facility Charge Branch, APP-530, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-3845, facsimile (202) 267-5302.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. We also invite comments about the economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impacts that might result from adopting the proposals in this document. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. We ask that you send us two copies of written comments.

We will file in the docket all comments we receive, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel about this proposed rulemaking. The

docket is available for public inspection before and after the comment closing date. If you wish to review the docket in person, go to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also review the docket using the Internet at the web address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Before acting on this proposal, we will consider all comments we receive on or before the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. We may change this proposal because of the comments we receive.

If you want the FAA to acknowledge receipt of your comments on this proposal, include with your comments a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will stamp the date on the postcard and mail it to you.

#### Background

On November 20, 2002, the FAA issued Notice No. 02-19, Revisions to Passenger Facility Charge Rule for Compensation to Air Carriers (67 FR 70878, November 27, 2002). Comments to that document were to be received on or before January 13, 2003.

On December 20, 2002, AAAE and ACI-NA jointly asked the FAA to extend the comment period to Notice No. 02-19 an additional 120 days. In the request, AAAE and ACI-NA note that air carriers had six years to collect economic data presented in the proposal supporting their request for an increase in PFC handling charges. AAAE and ACI-NA assert that 45 days is not enough time for other interested parties to review and comment on the air carrier economic data, especially since two holidays fell within the comment period.

In response to the AAAE and ACI-NA joint request for an extension of the comment period, the Air Transport Association (ATA) submitted a letter to the public docket on December 30, 2002, urging FAA to deny the request for an extension. ATA asserts that the air carrier data was compiled using procedures recommended by the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General. ATA contends that the data is reliable and finds that additional time to review the data is not necessary.

The FAA has considered these arguments and finds that an extension of the comment period to Notice No. 02-19 is in the public interest considering that two holidays fell within the comment period. However,