

reference to new § 135.423 to existing § 135.411(a)(1), and (c) add a reference to the redesignated § 135.424 to existing § 135.411(a)(2). This document makes these appropriate amendatory changes to clearly reflect that new §§ 135.422 and 135.423, as well as redesignated § 135.424, apply to operations under part 135 as specified in § 135.411. This amendment will not impose any added restrictions on operators affected by these regulations.

In addition to the revisions to § 135.411, this amendment also corrects an error in the heading of § 135.423(b)(2). This amendment will not impose any additional restrictions on operators affected by these regulations.

Procedural Matters

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 553, agencies must generally publish regulations for public comment and give the public at least 30 days notice before adopting regulations. There is an exception to these requirements if the agency for good cause finds that notice and public procedure are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. In this case, the FAA finds that notice and comment requirements are unnecessary because of the administrative nature of the changes. The changes do not affect the rights or obligations of any regulated entity. It is in the public interest that the changes take effect promptly.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 135

Air taxis, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

The Amendment

■ In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 135 as follows:

PART 135—OPERATING REQUIREMENTS: COMMUTER AND ON-DEMAND OPERATIONS AND RULES GOVERNING PERSONS ON BOARD SUCH AIRCRAFT

■ 1. The authority citation for part 135 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701–44702, 44705, 44709, 44711–44713, 44715–44717, 44722.

■ 2. Amend § 135.411 by revising the first sentence of paragraph (a)(1) and paragraph (a)(2) to read as follows:

§ 135.411 Applicability.

(a) * * *

(1) Aircraft that are type certificated for a passenger seating configuration, excluding any pilot seat, of nine seats or less, shall be maintained under parts 91 and 43 of this chapter and §§ 135.415, 135.416, 135.417, 135.421 and 135.423.
* * *

(2) Aircraft that are type certificated for a passenger seating configuration, excluding any pilot seat, of ten seats or more, shall be maintained under a maintenance program in §§ 135.415, 135.416, 135.417, 135.422, and 135.424 through 135.443.
* * *

■ 3. Amend § 135.423 by revising the heading of paragraph (b)(2) to read as follows:

§ 135.423 Aging airplane inspections and records reviews for multiengine airplanes certificated with nine or fewer passenger seats.

* * *

(b) * * *

(2) Airplanes exceeding 14 years in service but not 24 years in service on December 8, 2003; initial and repetitive inspections and records review. * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 3, 2003.

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Assistant Chief Counsel, Regulations Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 250

RIN 1010–AC91

Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Revision of Requirements Governing Outer Continental Shelf Rights-of-Use and Easement and Pipeline Rights-of-Way

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: MMS is modifying requirements governing rights-of-use and easements and pipeline rights-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These changes will increase rental rates for pipeline rights-of-way and establish rentals for rights-of-use and easements. This change is needed because of requests made by lessees and pipeline right-of-way holders to use large areas outside of the area covered by their lease and pipeline right-of-way for accessory structures. This rule will

require holders of rights-of-use and easements and holders granted use of large areas as part of a pipeline right-of-way to pay rentals on a per acre basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective January 12, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Mirabella, Chief, Office of Offshore Regulations, (703) 787–1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Areas of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) once thought beyond reach, located in water depths greater than 5,000 feet, are now being explored for development. A new generation of drillships and the development of new techniques allow drilling in waters as deep as 10,000 feet. Operators and pipeline right-of-way holders on the OCS are developing more sophisticated and cost-efficient technology that will lower the cost of safely finding, extracting, and delivering deepwater oil and natural gas.

In the next decade, as industry moves further offshore into ultra-deepwater frontiers, the number of floating production vessels will increase substantially. Structures such as tension-leg platforms and floating production and offloading systems will become widely used to produce oil and gas in the GOM. These systems must be stabilized above the seafloor in water depths of 1,000 to 10,000 feet and, therefore, require a mooring system that may have a “footprint” radius greater than 8,500 feet. In some cases, the mooring system may cover the majority of the OCS block on which the facility is positioned.

Additionally, where the cost of producing directly from a production platform in deep water will allow operators to produce only large hydrocarbon discoveries from platforms, operators will produce smaller hydrocarbon discoveries in deep water by means of wells with production trees (the assemblage of valves) that are located on the ocean floor. These subsea systems must be tied back to a host facility by means of pipelines that deliver the production for processing and/or measurement, and cable-like control umbilicals that contain electrical conductors and small diameter steel tubing. Umbilicals allow control of the valves in the production tree and the measurement of pressure and temperature within the well to be accomplished remotely from the host facility (a platform that may not be on or near the lease).

A right-of-use and easement or pipeline right-of-way grant allows lessees and pipeline right-of-way holders the freedom to optimize the placement of their facilities on unleased