

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8400.66

5/12/04

Cancellation

Date: 5/12/05

SUBJ: DISPATCH AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT TO PILOTS EXPERIENCING A MALFUNCTION THREATENING FLIGHT SAFETY

- 1. PURPOSE.** This notice provides guidance to all Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 principal operations inspectors (POI) and operators conducting operations required to have dispatchers on the appropriate dispatch and maintenance support to pilots experiencing a malfunction threatening flight safety.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This notice is distributed to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; to the Flight Standards District Offices, and to the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. This notice is also distributed electronically to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters and to all regional Flight Standards divisions and district offices. This information is also available on the Federal Aviation Administration's Web site at: <http://www.faa.gov/avr/afs/notices/8400/N8400-66.doc>.
- 3. BACKGROUND.** A recent accident investigation indicates that a flightcrew may have continued beyond the nearest suitable airport when they experienced a malfunction threatening flight safety. This continued operation might have been encouraged by operations and dispatch personnel and might have led to the loss of life and aircraft.
- 4. ACTION.** POIs of affected 14 CFR part 121 air carriers should provide a copy of this notice to them to take appropriate action.
 - a.** Operators should review their dispatch and maintenance directives to determine the appropriateness for dispatcher and maintenance support to pilots experiencing malfunctions while airborne.
 - b.** The operator should review its policies and procedures to ensure that dispatchers and other support personnel are clearly instructed to refrain from suggesting to flightcrews, who are experiencing a malfunction threatening flight safety, to continue the flight in the interest of airline flight scheduling.
 - c.** The operator should remove any contrary guidance to those personnel.

5. PROGRAM TRACKING AND REPORTING SUBSYSTEM (PTRS). Document the conveyance of the information contained in this notice for each air carrier affected:

- a. Use PTRS code 1385.
- b. Enter "N840066" (without the quotes) in the "National Use" field.
- c. Once the above information has been provided to the air carrier, close out the PTRS.

6. DISPOSITION. This notice will not be incorporated into Order 8400.10, Air Transportation Operations Inspector's Handbook. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-220, at (202) 493-4602.

/s/ Steven W. Douglas for
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Director, Flight Standards Service