



July 1, 2014

Mr. Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

We would like to use this opportunity to express our support for the recently issued rules (14 CFR Parts 91, 120, and 135) on helicopter air ambulance operations. As organizations that include medical personnel who fly on helicopters and dedicate their lives to the wellbeing of their patients, it is long overdue that significant safety upgrades are being required for air medical transport operations.

Air medical transportation services have saved countless lives and connected rural communities throughout the nation with top-notch medical services. Unfortunately, since 1991 we have witnessed over 60 air medical transport crashes, resulting in 125 deaths, many of which could have been prevented with the implementation of these regulations. Therefore, while we support these rules, we are disappointed that they have been delayed by one year and will not be implemented until April 22, 2015.

These helicopter air ambulance regulations were developed after nearly ten years of work by the FAA and outside stakeholders. We strongly feel that these rules should become effective at the earliest possible date. Therefore, we urge the FAA not to consider any further delays and to fully implement the new regulations in their entirety in April 2015.

While many air transport operators have strong safety records, there are other companies that fly helicopters that do not meet the safety standards set forth in the new rules. Therefore, we urge you to reject calls for any further delays in implementation. Further, we call on the FAA to enforce these regulations stringently to ensure that air medical services are safe for medical personnel, patients, and the flight crew.

Again, thank you for issuing these rules and considering our concerns over their delay. We look forward to your response and working with you on their full implementation.

Sincerely,

Emergency Nurses Association
Association of Critical Care Transport
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians