

WPR21FA143

OPERATIONAL FACTORS/HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Group Chair's Factual Report - Attachment 7

Flight Locating Definition

October 25, 2022

Williams Shaun

From: Torgerson, Anne (FAA) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Williams Shaun
Cc: Hempen, Patrick (FAA); Rigsby, Matthew (FAA)
Subject: NTSB Request 21-167

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Hi Shaun,

This is in response to NTSB Request 21-167. Please see below.

NTSB

The NTSB is requesting a definition or clarification of the term "flight locating." There are definitions in Advisory Circulars (AC) for the term "flight following" that are very specific, but nothing for flight locating. The AC's and even 14 CFR Part 135 discuss flight locating systems and procedures for locating each flight. Is there a specific definition or is flight locating just being able to pinpoint the location of an aircraft when it is overdue?

FAA Response

Flight locating is not defined but procedures are required to be established by §135.179 for locating each flight for which an FAA flight plan is not filed. The regulation specifies these procedures:

1. Provide the certificate holder with at least the information required to be included in a VFR flight plan.
2. Provide for timely notification of an FAA facility or search and rescue facility, if an aircraft is overdue or missing.
3. Provide the certificate holder with the location, date, and estimated time for reestablishing communications, if the flight will operate in an area where communications cannot be maintained.

The regulation also requires that flight locating information be retained at the certificate holder's principal place of business, or at other places designated by the certificate holder in the flight locating procedures, until the completion of the flight. Further, the regulation requires each certificate holder to furnish the representative of the Administrator assigned to it with a copy of its flight locating procedures and any changes or additions unless those procedures are included in a manual required by §135.21. This regulation (§135.21) requires that such a manual must be used by the certificate holder's flight, ground, and maintenance personnel in conducting its operations.

FAA Order 8900.1 contains guidance for determining the acceptability of a certificate holder's flight locating procedures. It echoes the requirements of §135.179 and expounds on them with regard to use of contractors and training requirements for those designated to exercise operational control.

In summary, yes, flight locating is a procedure to determine when an aircraft is overdue and contains information to allow for locating such an aircraft if it is overdue or missing.

Have a good one.

Anne

Anne Torgerson
Aviation Safety
Accident Investigation, AVP-100
FAA

[REDACTED]
Washington, DC 20591
[REDACTED]