



Interagency Aviation TECH BULLETIN



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DISTRIBUTION: All Helicopter Operations

SUBJECT: Restriction on Restricted Category Aircraft Carrying Passengers or Cargo

ISSUE : Can a Restricted Category Aircraft carry passengers OR, cargo internally? Answer: **NO**
References FAR 21.25; FAR 91.313; Type Certificate Data Sheet (TCDS); FAA Order 8110.56

DISCUSSION: The references cited within the Federal Aviation Regulations prescribe certain limitations on the use of Restricted Category aircraft. The following excerpts provide direction for our use of these aircraft and must be complied with in accordance with agency directives.

- **21.25(a)** An applicant is entitled to a type certificate in the restricted category... (when he) ...shows that no feature or characteristic of the aircraft makes it unsafe when it is operated under the limitations prescribed for its intended use...
- 21.25(a)(1) Meets the airworthiness requirements of an aircraft category except those requirements... ... inappropriate for the special use for which the aircraft is to be used.
- **FAR 91.313(a)** No person may operate a restricted category civil aircraft –
 - (1) For other than the special purposes for which it is certificated; or
 - (2) In an operation other than one necessary to accomplish the work activity directly associated with that special purpose.
- 91.313(b) ...flight crewmember training in a special purpose operation for which the aircraft is certificated is considered to be an operation for that special purpose.
- 91.313(c) No person may operate a restricted category civil aircraft carrying persons or property for compensation or hire.
- 91.313(d) No person may be carried on a restricted category civil aircraft unless that person...is a Flight Crewmember, Performs an essential function, Is necessary to perform the work activity
- 91.313(e) Except when operating in accordance with terms and conditions... (limitations) ...no person may operate a restricted category civil aircraft...over a densely populated area; In a congested airway; Near a busy airport where passenger transport operations are conducted.
- 91.313(f) This section does not apply to non-passenger carrying civil rotorcraft external load operations conducted under Part 133...
 - Basically, none of 91.313 applies to Part 133, External Load Operations. However, Part 133 contains the same restrictions (i.e. over populated areas, no passengers, etc.) as 91.313.

Type Certificate Data Sheet

- Restricted Category helicopters are prohibited from carrying passengers for compensation or hire; Does not exclude them from carrying their own employees;
- Restricted Category helicopters are prohibited from carrying cargo for compensation or hire; Does not exclude them carrying their own cargo.

FAA Order 8110.56

Restricted Category Type Certification for Restricted Category aircraft may be lower than the level of safety for Standard Category aircraft. (Remember FAR 21.25(a)) but, to maintain Level of Safety for the public - operating restrictions are imposed to insure the aircraft is safe for Its Intended Use

- No feature makes it unsafe when operated under its prescribed limitations.
- Operated with flight limitations (congested areas, etc.)
- No Passengers
- No Cargo (Internal)

Applicable Interior and Forest Service Policies

- FSM 5703.32 **Flight Operations- Civil Aircraft Policy**

Conduct all Forest Service flight operations defined in FAR 1.1 as “Civil Aircraft” operations. (See FSM 5700)

- 351 DM 1.I **Operations in Restricted Category and Uncertificated Aircraft.**

Aircraft certificated in restricted category or un-certificated aircraft shall be limited to:

- (1) Cargo(external) (2) External loads (3) passengers prohibited

SUMMARY

Why are these limitations imposed? Restricted category aircraft are certificated based on demonstrated levels of safety, and are expected to be safe for their intended use.

- Restricted Category aircraft **may not:**
 - Carry our people
 - Carry our cargo internally

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