



Federal Aviation Administration

MMEL Policy Letter 123 Revision 01

Date: April 30, 2010

To: All Region Flight Standards Division Managers
All Aircraft Evaluation Group Managers

From: Manager, Air Transportation Division, AFS-200

Reply To: Manager, Technical Programs Branch, AFS-260
Attn Of:

Subject: Passenger Notice System (Lighted Information Signs)

MMEL CODE: 33 (LIGHTS)

REFERENCE: PL-123, Original, dated January 20, 2009

PURPOSE:

This policy letter provides guidance regarding Passenger Lighted Information Signs (e.g., "No Smoking"/"Fasten Seat Belt"/"Return to Cabin (Seat)").

DISCUSSION:

Revision 1 clarifies relief for certain operations not addressed in the original policy letter. Although the several 14 CFR sections contain similar language, differing certification and operating rules, principally those related to public address and flight attendant requirements, should be considered when developing MMEL relief for inoperative equipment.

14 CFR sections 91.517(a), 121.317(a), 125.217(a) and 135.127(a) require, in part, that no person may operate a passenger-carrying airplane unless it is equipped with passenger information signs, and the signs must be constructed so the crewmembers can turn them on and off.

POLICY:

Flight Operations Evaluation Board (FOEB) chairmen should adopt the following wording, as appropriate, for Passenger Lighted Information Signs (e.g., "No Smoking"/"Fasten Seat Belt"/"Return to Cabin (Seat)"). FOEB chairmen should consider the affect of an inoperative lavatory (blocked) on emergency egress requirements.

33 LIGHTS	Repair Interval	Number Installed	Number Required for Dispatch	Remarks or Exceptions
-20 Passenger Lighted Information Sign	C	-	-	(M) May be inoperative provided: a) Associated passenger seat or lavatory is not occupied from which a passenger lighted information sign is not readily legible, and b) Associated seat or lavatory is blocked and placarded - DO NOT OCCUPY. NOTE: These conditions are not intended to prohibit lavatory use or inspections by crewmembers.
	C	-	-	(O) May be inoperative and associated passenger seat or lavatory may be occupied provided: a) PA system operates normally, and b) PA system is used to notify passengers and cabin crew when associated sign(s) are placed on or off.
1) All-Cargo, Supernumerary/Courier Area Lighted Information Sign	C	-	-	(O) May be inoperative provided alternate procedures are established and used to notify couriers/supernumeraries when associated sign(s) are placed on or off.

The following pertains only to operations involving aircraft certified with 19 or less passenger seats, wherein certification or operating rules do not require a public address system or flight attendant.

-20 Passenger Lighted Information Sign	C	-	-	(O) May be inoperative provided alternate procedures are established and used to notify cabin occupants.
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Each Flight Operations Evaluation Board (FOEB) chairman should apply this policy to affected MMELs through the normal FOEB process.

/s/ 05/01/2010

John Duncan, Manager
Air Transportation Division, AFS-200