

MEXICO

News & Regulatory Updates

The following information was provided by Universal Avionics, an Elbit Systems Company.

FDR mandates issued by Mexico AFAC

Regulations adopted by the Federal Civil Aviation Agency in Mexico (Agencia Federal de Aviación Civil - AFAC) mandate certain fixed-wing turbine aircraft to carry specific flight data recorders. The mandate applies to fixed-wing turbine aircraft, based on the number of passenger seats (excluding crew seats), or fixed-wing turbine aircraft with MTOW that falls within the published rule, including cargo aircraft and aircraft operating under Part 91 with a Mexican registration. Foreign air carriers with Mexican authorization also need to comply, but foreign operators (non-Mexican registration) under Part 91 do not.

These FDR regulations are a bit complex, and we've spoken to a few customers who have found them to be confusing. We've organized the following information to provide you with clear and insightful information on how the FDR mandates could impact your operations.

FDR TYPE REQUIREMENT

The type of FDR required varies by date of Airworthiness Certificate issued and MTOW:

- All TYPE I, IA and II FDRs must retain the information recorded during the last 25 hours of operation.
- Type IIA FDRs must retain the recorded information during the last 30 minutes of operation (see Section 6.6.1 of regulation).

AFFECTED AIRCRAFT

The mandates also apply to large rotorcraft; however, fixed-wing aircraft are the subject of this summary:

- Fixed-Wing Turbine aircraft with Airworthiness Certificate issued on or after 1 January 2016 that have 10 or more PAX seats OR MTOW greater than 5,700 kg require a Type II FDR (6.7.2).
- Fixed-Wing Turbine Multi-Engine aircraft with Airworthiness Certificate issued on or after 1 January 1990 AND nine or fewer PAX Seats OR MTOW equal to or less than 5,700 kg require a Type IIA FDR (6.7.6.3).
- Fixed-Wing Turbine aircraft with Airworthiness Certificate issued on or after 1 January 1989 with 10 or more PAX seats OR MTOW greater of 5,700 kg

- up to 27,000 kg require a Type II FDR (6.7.6.2).
- Fixed-Wing Turbine aircraft with Airworthiness Certificate issued on or after 1 January 1987 but before 1 January 1989 with 10 or more PAX seats OR MTOW greater than 5,700 kg require an FDR that records five specific parameters (6.7.7.1).
 - Time (reference of time), Altitude, Airspeed, Normal Acceleration, Heading.
- Fixed-Wing Turbine aircraft with Airworthiness Certificate issued before 1 January 1987 with 10 or more PAX seats OR MTOW of 5,700 kg require an FDR that records five specific parameters (6.7.8.1).
 - Time (reference of time), Altitude, Airspeed, Normal Acceleration, Heading.

COMPLIANCE DATES

Based on the number of aircraft an operator owns, compliance dates include the following:

- 1-2 Aircraft: Compliance date 31 December 2020.
- 3-4 Aircraft: Compliance date 31 December 2021.
- 5 or more aircraft:
- 25% of fleet must meet mandate by 30 June 2021.
- 50% of fleet must meet mandate by 31 December 2021.
- 75% of fleet must meet mandate by 30 June 2022.
- 100% of fleet must meet mandate by 31 December 2022.
- Operator must submit plan of equipment to AFAC that includes STC information, equipment being installed, and MRO that will be performing the installation. Once this is submitted, the operator must wait for approval from the Mexican authorities.

Please note, the information detailed above is current as of 30 March 2021 and is provided as guidance only. Please consult AFAC published regulations for further and/or up-to-date information. □