

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration**

[Docket No. 27026; Notice No. 92-16A]

RIN 2120-AE77

Explosive Detection Systems**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.**ACTION:** Proposed Criteria for Certification; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document announces an extension of the comment period on Notice 92-16 entitled, "Explosive Detection Systems; Proposed Criteria for Certification" (57 FR 52698; November 4, 1992). This comment period is extended from January 4, 1993, until February 4, 1993. The extension responds to the request of the Air Transport Association of America (ATA) and is needed to permit ATA, and other affected parties, additional time to develop comments responsive to Notice 92-16.

DATES: The comment period is being extended from January 4, 1993, to February 4, 1993.

ADDRESSES: As stated in Notice 92-16, comments should be mailed, in triplicate, to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket (AGC-10), Docket No. 27026, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. All comments must be marked: "Docket No. 27026." Comments on this Notice may be examined in room 915G on

weekdays, except on Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Comments that include or reference national security information or sensitive security information should not be submitted to the public docket. Such comments should be sent to the following address in a manner consistent with applicable requirements and procedures for safeguarding sensitive security information: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Civil Aviation Security Operations, Attention: FAA Security Control Point (ACO-320A), Docket No. ACP-27026-C, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bruce Butterworth, Director (ACP-1), Office of Civil Aviation Security Policy and Planning, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267-8058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 4, 1992, the FAA issued Notice No. 92-16, entitled "Explosive Detection Systems; Proposed Criteria for Certification." Notice 92-16 proposed to establish criteria for the certification of explosives detection systems to screen checked baggage for international flights.

By a request dated December 1, 1992, ATA asked that the comment period be extended 60 days. Because of the technical and operational complexities of the proposed criteria, ATA indicated that it, and its member air carriers, had not completed analyzing the potential

effects of the criteria proposed in Notice 92-16.

In order to give ATA and its members additional time to complete this analysis and prepare comments reflecting the knowledge gained from it, the FAA finds that it would be in the public interest to extend the comment period. The FAA finds that an extension of 30 days, however, is sufficient for careful analysis and the preparation and submission of comments to the docket. An extension until March 4 would unduly delay FAA's efforts to comply with sections 107 and 108 of the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990, Public Law 101-604, which require an accelerated research and development program with proper testing and certification of equipment prior to deployment. Any such comments submitted before the close of the extended comment period are likely to provide additional substantive information, which will be helpful in developing the criteria, without unduly delaying issuance of the criteria in final (or interim final) form. Accordingly, the comment period is extended to February 4, 1993, to afford all interested persons the opportunity to comment on Notice 92-16.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 4, 1993.

O.K. Steele,

Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security.

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