



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety

800 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20591

July 21, 2021

Exemption No. 131P
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2001-9519

Major Scott W. Robinson
Chief, Flight Directives Division
Department of the Air Force
6500 South MacArthur Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73169

Dear Major Robinson:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has granted your petition to extend Exemption No. 131O, as amended. This letter transmits the FAA's decision, explains the FAA's basis, and provides the conditions and limitations of the exemption, including the date it ends.

The Basis for the FAA's Decision

By letter dated May 10, 2021, you petitioned the FAA on behalf of Department of the Air Force (USAF) for an exemption from § 91.159 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) to the extent necessary to allow the USAF to conduct hurricane reconnaissance flights without maintaining the appropriate cruising altitudes as prescribed by § 91.159. You also requested that the exemption be extended for 3 years.

In your petition, you indicate that there has been no change in the conditions and reasons relative to public interest and safety that were the basis for granting the original exemption.

The FAA's Decision

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the *Federal Register* because the requested extension of the exemption would not set a precedent and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to USAF.

The FAA has determined that the justification for the issuance of Exemption No. 131P remains valid with respect to this exemption and is in the public interest. Therefore, under the authority

provided by 49 U.S.C.106 (f), 40113, 44701, and 44807, which the FAA Administrator has delegated to me, I hereby grant the Department of the Air Force an exemption from 14 CFR 91.159 to the extent necessary to allow the USAF to conduct hurricane reconnaissance flights without maintaining the appropriate cruising altitudes as prescribed by 91.159. The petitioner also requests the exemption be extended for 3 years, subject to the following conditions and limitations.

Conditions and Limitations

1. The pilot of any USAF aircraft engaged in the operations allowed by this exemption is not relieved of the responsibility to see and avoid other aircraft as required by other provisions of the regulations.

To request an extension or amendment to this exemption, please submit your request by using the Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2001-9519 (<http://www.regulations.gov>). In addition, you should submit your request no later than 120 days prior to the exemption's expiration date listed below, or 120 days before you need the amendment.

Any extension or amendment request must meet the requirements of § 11.81 of 14 CFR.

The Effect of the FAA's Decision

The FAA's decision amends Exemption No. 131O to 131P and extends the termination date to July 31, 2024 unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Sincerely,
/s/
Robert C. Carty
Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service