



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

800 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20591

SEP 22 2015

Mr. Matthew S. Zuccaro
President and Chief Operating Officer
Helicopter Association International
1920 Ballenger Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2898

Dear Mr. Zuccaro:

This is in response to your July 16, 2015, letter sent to public docket FAA-2001-9195, requesting an extension of Exemption No. 6175. That exemption from § 135.213(a) of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), permits helicopter emergency medical services departures, under instrument flight rules (IFR), in weather that is at or above visual flight rules minimums, from airports or heliports at which a weather report is not available from the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS), a source approved by the NWS, or a source approved by the Administrator, subject to certain conditions and limitations.

In your letter, you state that the conditions and circumstances pursuant to which Exemption No. 6175 was originally granted remain unchanged. However, on February 21, 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published the Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations rule (79 FR 9932). This rule added § 135.611, IFR operations at locations without weather reporting, to Title 14. Effective April 22, 2015, § 135.611(d) allows the pilot in command (PIC) to make weather observations to determine if the weather meets the takeoff requirements of part 97 (i.e., the PIC is allowed to determine to what degree visibility and ceiling are impaired to make IFR departure). This allows a PIC to determine whether the weather meets the requirements of visual meteorological conditions.

Upon review of your petition, the FAA finds that the latitude provided by § 135.611 allows the operations authorized by Exemption No. 6175 without the need for an exemption. Therefore, this letter is to inform you that that the FAA will take no further action on this matter. Accordingly, docket FAA-2001-9195 is being closed.

Sincerely,

Jodi Baker
Deputy Assistant Division Manager, Air Transportation Division