

with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

### Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

- 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### § 39.13 [Amended]

- 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**2022-17-11 Bombardier, Inc.:** Amendment 39-22149; Docket No. FAA-2022-0681; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01292-T.

#### (a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective October 27, 2022.

#### (b) Affected ADs

None.

#### (c) Applicability

This AD applies to Bombardier, Inc., Model BD-700-2A12 airplanes, certificated in any category, as identified in Bombardier

Service Bulletin 700-52-7508, Revision 01, dated January 13, 2021.

#### (d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 35, Oxygen.

#### (e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports that significant water accumulation was discovered in the oxygen service compartment of multiple airplanes. The FAA is issuing this AD to address water ingress through oxygen service compartment access panels. If not addressed, the freeze/thaw cycle of accumulated water may damage oxygen connections inside the compartment, leading to oxygen leakage and risk of fire in the presence of an ignition source.

#### (f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

#### (g) Required Actions

Within 25 months after the effective date of this AD: Modify the oxygen service compartment door in accordance with Part A of the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier Service Bulletin 700-52-7508, Revision 1, dated January 13, 2021.

#### (h) Credit for Previous Actions

This paragraph provides credit for actions required by paragraph (g) of this AD, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Bombardier Service Bulletin 700-52-7508, dated September 4, 2020.

#### (i) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs):* The Manager, New York ACO Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to ATTN: Program Manager, Continuing Operational Safety, FAA, New York ACO Branch, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 516-228-7300; fax 516-794-5531. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer:* For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, New York ACO Branch, FAA; or Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA); or Bombardier, Inc.’s TCCA Design Approval Organization (DAO). If approved by the DAO, the approval must include the DAO-authorized signature.

#### (j) Additional Information

(1) Refer to TCCA AD CF-2021-40, dated November 19, 2021, for related information.

This TCCA AD may be found in the AD docket at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2022-0681.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Gabriel Kim, Aerospace Engineer, Mechanical Systems and Administrative Services Section, FAA, New York ACO Branch, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 516-228-7300; email [9-avs-nyaco-cos@faa.gov](mailto:9-avs-nyaco-cos@faa.gov).

#### (k) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Bombardier Service Bulletin 700-52-7508, Revision 1, dated January 13, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Bombardier Business Aircraft Customer Response Center, 400 Côte-Vertu Road West, Dorval, Québec H4S 1Y9, Canada; telephone 514-855-2999; email [ac.yul@aero.bombardier.com](mailto:ac.yul@aero.bombardier.com); internet <https://www.bombardier.com>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov), or go to: [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html).

Issued on August 10, 2022.

**Christina Underwood,**

*Acting Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022-20490 Filed 9-21-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2022-0805; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00951-R; Amendment 39-22182; AD 2022-19-13]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N,

and AS355NP helicopters. This AD was prompted by the identification of certain parts needing maintenance actions, including life limits and maintenance tasks. This AD requires incorporating into existing maintenance records requirements (airworthiness limitations), as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective October 27, 2022.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of October 27, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** For EASA material incorporated by reference (IBR) in this final rule, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); internet [easa.europa.eu](http://easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at [ad.easa.europa.eu](http://ad.easa.europa.eu). For Airbus Helicopters service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus Helicopters, 2701 North Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; telephone (972) 641-0000 or (800) 232-0323; fax (972) 641-3775; or at [airbus.com/helicopters/services/technical-support.html](http://airbus.com/helicopters/services/technical-support.html). You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. Service information that is IBRed is also available in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-0805.

#### Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-0805; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the EASA AD, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristi Bradley, Program Manager, COS Program Management Section, Operational Safety Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX

76177; telephone (817) 222-5110; email [kristin.bradley@faa.gov](mailto:kristin.bradley@faa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2021-0193, dated August 20, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0193) to correct an unsafe condition for Airbus Helicopters (AH), formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, and Aerospatiale, Model AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N, and AS 355 NP helicopters, all serial numbers. EASA AD 2021-0193 requires accomplishment of the actions in the applicable Airworthiness Limitations Section (ALS) as defined in EASA AD 2021-0193.

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2022 (87 FR 39019). The NPRM was prompted by the identification of certain parts needing maintenance actions, including life limits and maintenance tasks. The NPRM proposed to require incorporating into maintenance records requirements (airworthiness limitations), as specified in EASA AD 2021-0193.

##### Relationship Between This AD and Other Relevant Rulemaking

EASA AD 2021-0193 states that it takes over the requirements for Model AS 355 helicopters from EASA AD 2010-0006, dated January 7, 2010 (EASA AD 2010-0006) (which prompted FAA AD 2011-22-05 R1, Amendment 39-17765 (79 FR 14169, March 13, 2014) (AD 2011-22-05 R1)) and EASA AD 2015-0094, dated May 29, 2015 (EASA AD 2015-0094) (which prompted FAA AD 2016-25-20, Amendment 39-18746 (81 FR 94954, December 27, 2016) (AD 2016-25-20)). EASA AD 2021-0193 also notes that the requirements of EASA AD 2010-0006 and EASA AD 2015-0094 have been incorporated into the applicable ALS specified in EASA AD 2021-0193.

Accordingly, this final rule does not supersede AD 2011-22-05 R1 or AD 2016-25-20. Rather, the FAA has determined that a stand-alone AD is more appropriate to address the changes in EASA AD 2021-0193. Therefore, this AD requires incorporating into existing maintenance records requirements (airworthiness limitations), as specified in the applicable ALS, as defined in EASA AD 2021-0193. Accomplishment

of the required actions terminates all of the requirements of AD 2011-22-05 R1 and AD 2016-25-20 for Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters only.

##### Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

##### Comments

The FAA received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the costs.

##### Conclusion

These helicopters have been approved by EASA and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with the European Union, EASA has notified the FAA about the unsafe condition described in its AD. The FAA reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these helicopters. This AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM.

##### Related Service Information Under 14 CFR Part 51

EASA AD 2021-0193 requires certain actions and associated thresholds and intervals, including life limits and maintenance tasks.

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

##### Other Related Service Information

The FAA reviewed Airbus Helicopters AS 355 E Chapter 04 ALS Revision 010, dated September 14, 2020; Airbus Helicopters AS 355 F Chapter 04 ALS Revision 010, dated September 14, 2020; Airbus Helicopters AS 355 F1 Chapter 04 ALS Revision 010, dated September 14, 2020; Airbus Helicopters AS 355 F2 Chapter 04 ALS Revision 011, dated September 14, 2020; Airbus Helicopters AS 355 N Chapter 04 ALS, Revision 010, dated September 14, 2020; and Airbus Helicopters AS 355 NP Chapter 04 ALS Revision 009, dated February 4, 2019. This service information specifies procedures for mandatory actions for continued airworthiness.

##### ADs Mandating Airworthiness Limitations

The FAA has previously mandated airworthiness limitations by mandating each airworthiness limitation task (*e.g.*, inspections and replacements (life limits)) as an AD requirement or issuing ADs that require revising the ALS of the existing maintenance manual or instructions for continued airworthiness

to incorporate new or revised inspections and life limits. This AD, however, requires operators to incorporate into maintenance records required by 14 CFR 91.417(a)(2) or 135.439(a)(2), as applicable for your helicopter, the requirements (airworthiness limitations) specified in a civil aviation authority AD. The FAA does not intend this as a substantive change. For these ADs, the ALS requirements for operators are the same but are complied with differently. Requiring the incorporation of the new ALS requirements into the existing maintenance records, rather than requiring individual ALS tasks (e.g., repetitive inspections and replacements), requires operators to record AD compliance once after updating the maintenance records, rather than after every time the ALS task is completed.

In addition, paragraph (h) of this AD allows operators to incorporate later approved revisions of the ALS document as specified in the Ref. Publications section of EASA AD 2021-0193 without the need for an alternative method of compliance (AMOC).

#### Differences Between This AD and EASA AD 2021-0193

Paragraph (1) of EASA AD 2021-0193 requires compliance with actions and associated thresholds and intervals, including life limits and maintenance tasks, from the effective date of EASA AD 2021-0193. Paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2021-0193 requires incorporating the actions and associated thresholds and intervals, including life limits and maintenance tasks, into the approved maintenance program within 12 months after the effective date of EASA AD 2021-0193. This AD requires incorporating into existing maintenance records requirements (airworthiness limitations) within 30 days after the effective date of this AD.

#### Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 45 helicopters of U.S. Registry. Labor rates are estimated at \$85 per work-hour. Based on these numbers, the FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD.

Incorporating into existing maintenance records, requirements (airworthiness limitations) takes about 2 work-hours for an estimated cost of \$170 per helicopter and \$7,650 for the U.S. fleet.

#### Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I,

section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

#### Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

#### PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

- 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### § 39.13 [Amended]

- 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

#### 2022-19-13 Airbus Helicopters:

Amendment 39-22182; Docket No. FAA-2022-0805; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00951-R.

#### (a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective October 27, 2022.

#### (b) Affected ADs

This AD affects AD 2011-22-05 R1, Amendment 39-17765 (79 FR 14169, March 13, 2014) (AD 2011-22-05 R1); and AD 2016-25-20, Amendment 39-18746 (81 FR 94954, December 27, 2016) (AD 2016-25-20).

#### (c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters, certificated in any category.

#### (d) Subject

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code: 6410, Tail Rotor Blades.

#### (e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by the identification of certain parts needing maintenance actions, including life limits and maintenance tasks. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the failure of certain parts, which could result in the loss of control of the helicopter.

#### (f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

#### (g) Required Action

Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, incorporate into maintenance records required by 14 CFR 91.417(a)(2) or 135.439(a)(2), as applicable for your rotorcraft, the requirements (airworthiness limitations) specified in paragraph (1) of European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0193, dated August 20, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0193).

#### (h) Provisions for Alternative Requirements (Airworthiness Limitations)

After the actions required by paragraph (g) of this AD have been done, no alternative requirements (airworthiness limitations) are allowed unless they are approved as specified in the provisions of the "Ref. Publications" section of EASA AD 2021-0193.

#### (i) Terminating Action for ADs 2011-22-05 R1 and 2016-25-20

(1) Accomplishing the actions required by this AD terminates all requirements of AD 2011-22-05 R1 for Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters only.

(2) Accomplishing the actions required by this AD terminates all requirements of AD 2016-25-20 for Model AS355E, AS355F, AS355F1, AS355F2, AS355N, and AS355NP helicopters only.

#### (j) Special Flight Permit

Special flight permits in accordance with 14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199, are prohibited.

#### (k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve

AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

#### (l) Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact Kristi Bradley, Program Manager, COS Program Management Section, Operational Safety Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222-5110; email [kristin.bradley@faa.gov](mailto:kristin.bradley@faa.gov).

#### (m) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0193, dated August 20, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2021-0193, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); internet [easa.europa.eu](http://easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at [ad.easa.europa.eu](http://ad.easa.europa.eu).

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. This material may be found in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2022-0805.

(5) You may view this material that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov), or go to: [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html).

Issued on September 9, 2022.

#### Christina Underwood,

Acting Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-20542 Filed 9-21-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 73

[Docket No. FAA-2022-1116; Airspace Docket No. 22-ANE-5]

RIN 2120-AA66

#### Modification of Restricted Areas R-6501A and R-6501B; Underhill, VT

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This action modifies restricted areas R-6501A and R-6501B, Underhill, VT, by amending the upper altitude limit of R-6501A and the lower altitude limit of R-6501B. Certain military activities near Underhill, VT, require restricted airspace that exceeds the current 4,000-foot mean sea level (MSL) upper altitude limit of R-6501A. As a result, R-6501B must be activated, along with R-6501A, to ensure containment of the hazardous activity. Raising the upper altitude limit of R-6501A from 4,000 feet MSL to but not including 4,900 feet MSL and the lower altitude limit of R-6501B from 4,000 feet MSL to 4,900 feet MSL, will result in more efficient use of airspace by reducing the need to activate R-6501B. This modification is fully contained within the existing lateral and vertical limits of R-6501A and B. The activities conducted in these restricted airspace areas are unchanged.

**DATES:** Effective date 0901 UTC, December 29, 2022.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Gallant, Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority since it adjusts

the upper altitude limit of R-6501A, and the lower altitude limit of R-6501B, to enable more efficient use of airspace.

#### Background

Restricted area R-6501A, Underhill, VT, extends from the surface to 4,000 feet MSL. The time of designation for the area is: "From 0700 to 2300 local time, Monday-Friday; 0000 Saturday to 2359 Sunday; and other times by NOTAM issued 24 hours in advance."

Restricted area R-6501B directly overlies R-6501A and shares the same lateral boundaries. R-6501B extends from 4,000 feet MSL to 13,600 feet MSL. The time of designation is: "Intermittent by NOTAM 24 hours in advance."

Currently, the altitude that separates the two areas is 4,000 feet MSL. The issue is that the 4,000 feet MSL ceiling of R-6501A is not sufficient to safely contain most activities being conducted. This requires that R-6501B also be activated along with R-6501A.

However, the activation of R-6501B restricts the airspace all the way up to 13,600 feet MSL, even though the majority of R-6501B is not needed for certain operations. Raising the upper altitude limit of R-6501A from 4,000 feet MSL to "to but not including 4,900 feet MSL"; and the lower altitude limit of R-6501B from 4,000 feet MSL to "4,900 feet MSL" will eliminate the need to frequently activate R-6501B. This will make more airspace available for Air Traffic Control (ATC) and general aviation use.

To provide for more efficient use of airspace, the FAA and the using agency agreed to change the altitude that separates R-6501A and R-6501B from 4,000 feet MSL to 4,900 feet MSL. The new configuration enables activation of less restricted airspace to ensure containment of the majority of the using agency's training needs while maintaining the ability to activate additional restricted airspace for missions that require higher altitudes.

These changes will accommodate the using agency's requirements while releasing unneeded restricted airspace for access by other airspace users. With regard to the existing R-6501A and B, which abut, the lateral boundaries of the restricted airspace areas, the lowest and uppermost vertical limits of the airspace areas, and the activities conducted within the airspace are unchanged.

#### The Rule

This action amends 14 CFR part 73 by changing the upper altitude limit of R-6501A and lower altitude limit of R-6501B to adjust the internal altitude that separates them and minimizes the need to activate R-6501B. The time of