



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

Southwest Region
Arkansas, Louisiana,
New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas

Fort Worth, Texas 76177

July 25, 2016

Matthew Zuccaro
President and CEO
Helicopter Association International
1920 Ballenger Ave
Alexandria, VA 22314-2898

Dear Mr. Zuccaro:

Thank you for the "14 CFR 27 Single-Engine IFR Certification Proposal" white paper submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Rotorcraft Directorate in your November 16, 2015, letter, cosigned by Pete Bunce from General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Michael J. Hirschberg from American Helicopter Society (AHS), and Paula Derks from Aircraft Electronics Association. The Single Engine Instrument Flight Rules (SEIFR) white paper provides recommendations to the FAA for alternate means of compliance with Part 27 as it pertains to the certification of single engine rotorcraft for Instrument Flight Rules operations.

After reviewing the white paper, we are glad to report that the Rotorcraft Directorate has begun the process of adopting some of the concepts and recommendations of the white paper into a proposed Safety Continuum for Part 27 Systems and Equipment Policy Statement. The proposed policy statement will establish classes of Part 27 rotorcraft based on aircraft weight and passenger capacity for rotorcraft up to 7,000 pounds. The purpose of this safety continuum concept is to facilitate a more rapid incorporation of advances in technology for systems and equipment by recognizing a balanced approach between the risk and safety benefits for installing such technology. The approach in the proposed safety continuum policy statement is a much broader concept than the recommendations in the SEIFR white paper. This safety continuum concept can be applied to all Part 27 rotorcraft regardless of the number of engines or types of operations for which the aircraft is being certified.

The Rotorcraft Directorate has given this proposed policy statement high priority and has set a goal to release the proposed policy statement by November/December 2016 for public review and comment.

Again, thank you for your recommendations and we look forward to receiving industry comments to the proposed rotorcraft safety continuum policy statement once it is published for public review.

Sincerely,

FOR Lance T. Gant
Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service