ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

8320.13

3/3/81

SUBJ: MARKING OF DOOR MOUNTED (AUTOMATICALLY DEPLOYED) ESCAPE CHUTE CONTAINERS: SECTIONS 25.1561 AND 121.309(b)(4) OF THE FAR

1. PURPOSE: This order provides information to alert field airworthiness inspectors regarding interpretation of Sections 25.1561 and 121.309(b)(4) of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR). It relates that each compartment containing emergency equipment must be marked as to its contents to facilitate access to that equipment, specifically referring to exit doors with emergency slide and slide/raft enclosures.

2. DISTRIBUTION: This order is distributed to branch level in the Office of Airworthiness, Washington headquarters; to branch level in all regional Flight Standards Divisions, General Aviation, Air Carrier, Engineering and Manufacturing, and Flight Standards District Offices; and to all International Field Offices, International Aviation Field Offices, and Aeronautical Quality Assurance Field Offices.

3. BACKGROUND: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to receive inquiries regarding required markings/placards on emergency slide and slide/raft enclosures installed on exit doors, as required by Sections 25.1561 and 121.309(b)(4) of the FAR. There are aircraft in air carrier service with slide/rafts installed and others of the same model which have slides and liferafts stowed separately. The possibility exists that both slide/rafts and slides could be installed on the same aircraft. The markings on the slide/raft and slide container should identify the contents. If a slide/raft is installed, the container should be marked "slide/raft." If a slide is installed, the container should be marked "slide." A user of the equipment should be aware beforehand of what emergency equipment will be available when it is deployed.

4. ACTION: Field airworthiness inspectors are alerted to the interpretation of Section 25.1561(b) and (c) and Section 121.309(b)(4) of the FAR. The preamble of Amendment 121-106 states that the rule, as adopted, specifically provides that each item of emergency equipment must be clearly identified to facilitate access to that equipment. Therefore, each compartment containing emergency equipment must be marked as to its contents to facilitate access to that equipment. We refer to markings/placards on the enclosures of emergency slide or slide/raft exit doors. Safety is enhanced by markings/placards on door-mounted emergency slide or slide/raft enclosures which would identify

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the item of emergency equipment inside that container for use in an emergency situation. Therefore, field airworthiness inspectors shall determine that a marking/placard is clearly identified on door-mounted emergency slide or slide/raft enclosures to comply with Section 25.1561(b) and (c) and Section 121.309(b)(4).

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