

CUTTER FLIGHT MANAGEMENT, INC. (CFMI) Electronic Flight Bag (EFB), OpSpec A061 approval

Cutter Aviation has received approval to use an Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) to retrieve and display aeronautical charts and documents during all phases of flight while conducting air carrier operations. The EFB is an iPad Wi-Fi 32Gb with both "ForeFlight mobile 3HD" and "Jeppesen mobile TC" software for aeronautical charting needs. This approval completes a six months evaluation period conducted on Citation XL, BeechJet and King Air fleets. The evaluation verified compliance with FAA order 8900.1 and used advisory circular AC 120/76A as reference.

With the exception of a 51000ft decompression test, all phases of the evaluation were conducted by Cutter Flight Management, Inc (CFMI). Different aspects of the evaluation included electromagnetic non-interference testing, development of a training program and a maintenance program. The developed policies and procedures were incorporated in the company operation manual.

Acceptance of the EFB by the pilots has been immediate. The ease of use and availability of data is most of the time superior to paper, providing a level of safety comparable if not superior to it. Operationally the EFB allows a one-stop-shop for planning and it is therefore instrumental in the dispatching process. Particularly appealing to management is the cost saving allowed by use of domestic charting through ForeFlight software.

The approval was finalized by issuance of OpSpec A061 for a Class I EFB with type A and B software. Guidance from the local FAA representatives was invaluable throughout the evaluation process. A collaborative relationship with software developers was also instrumental to the success of the program. Cutter Aviation plans to complete a full transition to EFB (paperless cockpit) within one month.

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