



Forest Service Aviation Information Bulletin



No. FSIB 14-01

April 18, 2014

Page 1 of 1

Subject: Digital Copies of Contract Required Documentation

Area of Concern: Helicopter Operations

Distribution: Fire and Aviation Operations

Discussion: The rapid development of technology in the cockpit has provided many opportunities to automate and digitize much of the hard copy documentation once carried on board an aircraft. Many operators are using or seeking approval for Electronic Flight Bags (EFB). Additionally the United States Forest Service (USFS) has modified new and existing contracts to allow the use of EFB's and published guidance on their use. This addresses only a portion of the contractually required documents and leaves to question whether or not electronic copies of documents such as the contract, Interagency Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials Handbook/Guide and Emergency Response Guide (ERG) meet contract requirements.

The intent of this bulletin is to advise contractor and agency personnel that electronic copies of contract required items are allowed for the 2014 fire season on all national Type I and Type II Helicopter contracts (Exclusive Use and Call When Needed), providing the following conditions are met:

- ◆ EFB's used in the aircraft are FAA approved
- ◆ All other contract items are readily available to the vendor and agency crew (tablet style devices only, no laptops)
- ◆ Vendors must keep the device adequately charged to allow normal use and have a means of charging the device readily available without reliance on the government
- ◆ The vendor retains backup copies of required contract documentation in ground vehicles
- ◆ Common 7 inch tablets are the minimum size allowed, smart phones may not be used to meet this requirement.

Please direct any questions to Walker Craig: Office 208-866-3479 or email wdcraig@fs.fed.us

/s/ Ron Hanks

Branch Chief, Aviation Operations
U.S. Forest Service