

AIRPORT CERTIFICATION INFORMATION BULLETIN



DATE: 02/16/2000, NUMBER: 00-02
COMPLIANCE DATE FOR GLASS BEADS IN PAVEMENT MARKINGS

AC 150/5340-1H, *Standards for Airport Markings*, contains a new requirement for the use of glass beads in eleven types of permanent pavement markings as outlined in paragraph 4.b. The circular requires glass beads in these markings at all Part 139 certificated airports not later than August 31, 2000. Glass beads are not installed on black paint.

Field-testing indicates glass beads increase marking conspicuity at night and during periods of low visibility. As such, the standard requiring glass beads was established as one of several agency initiatives to reduce runway incursions. Since runway incursions are a high safety priority within the FAA, the installation of beads became a part of the new marking standards.

The new marking circular calls for the implementation of new standards at certificated airports, including the installation of glass beads. The above compliance date was based on the assumption that airport operators repaint their markings at least once a year. While this is certainly true at large airports, we recognize there are many smaller airports that do not adhere to this practice.

The new marking standards were not intended to require airport operators to repaint markings only for the sake of applying beads. This information bulletin clarifies compliance dates. When inspecting for compliance with the new marking standards, airport certification/safety inspectors will:

- Ensure any markings identified in Paragraph 4.b. of AC 150/5340-1H have glass beads, if repainted between the date of this bulletin and August 31, 2000.
- Identify in a Letter of Correction, beginning on September 1, 2000, any above referenced markings that do not have glass beads. The date for correcting this discrepancy will be determined based on a discussion with the airport manager as to when he/she plans to repaint the applicable markings.



You can increase the **“contrast”** of markings on light colored pavements by outlining them with a black border. The border must be at least 6 inches (15 cm) wide. This is particularly effective on hold lines and taxiway centerlines. We are now requiring all parts of holding position markings on concrete surfaces and light-colored asphalt surfaces to be outlined with a black border [see AC150/5340-1H, Paragraph 4.a.(1)].

