



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: May 28, 2013

To: Joel Harris, Branch Manager, AWP-230, Flight Standards Division – Technical Support Branch, General Aviation

From: Kevin Hull, Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100L

Prepared by: Mauricio Kuttler, Senior Engineer, Cabin Safety Branch, ANM-150L *Kevin Hull*
5-29-13

In reply refer to: 150L-13-250

Subject: Request for Aircraft Certification Office Assistance on Clarification for Removal of Rear Seat on Cessna 170 Series Aircraft.

We have received the Email request dated 05/06/2013, from Mr. Gary Kappa. This request was assigned LAACO Tracking No. 150L/1796/13. The request is for clarification on the removal of the rear seat in the Cessna 170 aircraft. The request asked if the LAACO considers this to be a Major Alteration.

Per Order 8900.1 Vol. 4, Chapter 9, Section 1, CHG 198, Figure 4-68 (1 E.1), approving the subject alteration requires an (EVL) Evaluation; the applicant must demonstrate that the design modifications comply with the applicable airworthiness standards (14 CFR §§ 23.785, and 23.1301).

After consulting with the Small Airplane Directorate, and other ACOs, we have determined that the proposed removal of the rear seat in the Cessna 170 does not constitute a Major Alteration. It is considered to be a *minor alteration* when accomplished with an appropriate weight and balance calculation. The removal of the rear seat does not change the center of gravity limits nor increases the weight limits established in the Type Design. Additionally, the removal of the rear seat has no effect on emergency evacuation capabilities or crashworthiness. Upon removal of the rear seat, the affected aircraft can be expected to continue to perform safe operation and conform to the regulatory requirements. Additionally proper steps must be taken to restrain any cargo that might be carried in the affected area.

We hope that you have been provided with sufficient information by our discussion and conclude, as we have, that the proper venue for this issue is a minor alteration.

If you have any questions, please contact Mauricio Kuttler at (562) 627-5340.