

Section 137. Aircraft Accident Investigation Commission.

(1) Accidents of civil aircraft involving death or serious injury of persons or serious damage of aircraft, shall be investigated by an aircraft accident commission, notwithstanding any other inquiries made by the authorities. The purpose of the investigation shall be to submit a report on the causes of the accident to the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power and to propose measures for the prevention of such accidents.

(2) The aircraft accident commission shall be appointed by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power for each accident separately. Only persons whose impartiality is beyond doubt shall be appointed. The aircraft accident commission shall be composed of an official of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power versed in the law, as chairman, and four additional members who shall be selected from a list of experts to be maintained at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power. Experts shall be entered on the list only after hearing the views of the Civil Aviation Advisory Board.

(3) The Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power shall issue by ordinance detailed provisions with respect to the conduct of investigations taking into account the purpose of investigation.

Section 138. Admission of Foreign Observers.

The state of registry of a foreign civil aircraft which suffered an accident in the Federal territory shall be authorized to appoint an observer to be present at the accident investigation provided that in case of accidents of Austrian civil aircraft on the territory of that state, an Austrian observer is admitted to the accident investigation. International agreements providing otherwise shall not thereby be affected.

PART IX—AUTHORITIES AND SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE**Section 139. Federal Civil Aviation Office.**

The Federal Civil Aviation Office shall have its seat in Vienna. It shall be directly subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power. Its scope of jurisdiction shall comprise the entire Federal territory. Procedure shall be governed by the laws on administrative procedure.

Section 140. Superior Authority and Appellate Procedures.

(1) In matters of civil aviation, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Electric Power shall be the authority superior to the provincial governor and to the Federal Civil Aviation Office and shall be the first level of appellate authority.

(2) In the cases of sections 9, 126, 128, 129, and 133, no appeal may be taken from the decision of the provincial governor.

Section 141. Supervision.

(1) Schools for civil air pilots, civil airdromes, and air transport enterprises shall be subject to supervision by the authority competent for the permission of operations (supervisory authority).

(2) Operators of civil air pilot's schools, operators of civil airports and air transport operators shall give to the supervisory authority all information on their operations as required in the interest of traffic safety or air traffic statistics. In the case of juridical persons this obligation shall be met by the responsible officers.