

TULSA DIVISION

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The Federal Aviation Agency today awarded a type certificate for the Series 50 DC-8, authorizing immediate commercial operation of the world's longest-range jet transport.

Newest and most advanced Jetliner produced by Douglas Aircraft Company, the Series 50 is the first turbofan-powered transport capable of flying non-stop over intercontinental ranges. It differs from previous models principally in its engines -- four Pratt & Whitney Aircraft JT-3D turbofans producing 17,000 pounds of static thrust each.

An unofficial distance record for commercial jets was set by a production model Series 50 DC-8 April 21 on a flight from Long Beach, California, to Rome, over a route of 6,890 statute miles. This exceeds the previous record by 1,060 miles.

The DC-8 maintained an average speed of 605 MPH during the 11 hour and 17 minute flight, part of a function and reliability demonstration made for officials of the FAA.

The big Douglas jet is 150 feet 6 inches long and has a wing-span of 142 feet five inches. It's gross take-off weight, including 154,408 pounds of fuel, is 315,000 pounds. At that weight, the Series 50 will take-off from fields measuring 10,700 feet and requires only 6,950 feet for landing at its design landing weight of 207,000 pounds.

Normal range, with full payload is 5,720 miles and normal cruising speed is more than 575 MPH.

Airlines which have ordered Series 50 DC-8s are KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines, which has taken delivery of two aircraft; Iberia, airline of Spain; United Air Lines; National Airlines; Philippine Air Lines and Aeronaves de Mexico.