

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Aviation Administration

Operations Specifications (Newly Automated)



Purpose

The mission of Flight Standards is to provide the public with accident-free aircraft operations through the highest standards in the world. As part of that mission, Flight Standards works with operators to document services, routes, aircraft, maintenance, airmen, and weather procedures unique to the specific operator. Through the use of standard operations specifications (OpSpecs) paragraphs, the FAA and industry are assured that air carriers conducting comparable operations with comparable equipment are held to the same standards.

Our Customers

Operators that have an air carrier or operating certificate; this includes, but is not limited to, 14 CFR parts 121 and 135.

Services We Provide to Our Customers

- * During the certification process, the Flight Standards aviation safety inspector (ASI) works with the operator to complete the computer-generated checklist/worksheets to produce a completed set of OpSpecs.
- * OpSpecs are the final product of the certification process. A complete set of OpSpecs is issued when all required information has been approved by the ASI and the operator.
- * The ASI helps the operator with revisions and updates to the OpSpecs as necessary.

Customer Commitment for OpSpecs

- * We will work with the customer during the certification process to perfect the initial OpSpecs and issue them upon completion of certification. The FAA may stop this process at anytime if all requirements are not met.
- * Once the certification is complete, we will make every effort to issue the initial OpSpecs within 30 working days.
- * We will make every effort to provide the customer with the means to draft or request a new OpSpecs within 15 working days.
- * We will work with the customer and make every effort to complete the reissuance of individual paragraph amendments within 7 working days.

Q. What is an OpSpecs?

A. The FAA Act recodified, empowers the FAA to issue certificates to qualified air operators. Each air carrier certificate is required to include the terms, conditions, and limitations reasonably necessary to ensure safe air transportation. Therefore, it could be said that OpSpecs are a legal contract between the air carrier, commuter or air taxi, or foreign air carrier operator and the FAA that outlines how those organizations plan to comply with the FAA regulations. Within the air transportation industry there is a need to establish and administer safety standards to accommodate many variables such as a wide range of aircraft, varied operator capabilities, various situations requiring different types of air transportation, and the continual, rapid changes in aviation technology.

It is impractical to address these variables through the promulgation of safety regulations for each type of situation. Instead, safety standards established by regulation should usually have a broad application which allows varying acceptable methods of compliance.

The OpSpecs provide an effective method of establishing safety standards which address a wide range of variables. The OpSpecs are tailored to suit an individual operator's needs. Only those authorizations, limitations, standards, and procedures that are applicable to an operator need to be included.

Q. Who is required to have OpSpecs?

A. Operators that have an air carrier or operating certificate and operate under 14 CFR Part 121, 135, and other pertinent 14 CFR parts.

Q. What is the procedure for developing OpSpecs?

A. The operator contacts its local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) ASI who has responsibility for the particular area of operation (operations, airworthiness, or avionics). The operator and FSDO ASI work together to develop the OpSpecs unique to the operation through the newly automated OpSpecs system.

Q. If need be, how do I make changes to my OpSpecs?

A. The operator contacts its local FSDO and follows the procedures outlined above. With the newly automated OpSpecs, the operator will be able to forward the completed OpSpecs electronically to the FSDO for approval and issuance.

Q. Who do I contact to start the certification process which includes getting my OpSpecs developed?

A. Contact the FSDO that is responsible for all FAA operations in your geographical area. Call the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, listed in your local telephone book for the location and telephone number of the nearest office.

