

CHAPTER 73 EVALUATE FAR PART 121/135 10 OR MORE LEASED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION: U.S. REGISTERED AIRCRAFT

Section 1 Background

1. PTRS ACTIVITY CODES

A. *Maintenance*: 3635

B. *Avionics*: 5365

3. OBJECTIVE. The chapter provides guidance for authorizing an operator (lessee) to maintain a leased aircraft in accordance with the previous operator's (lessor's) current and approved maintenance program for that type aircraft.

5. GENERAL.

A. FAR Part 121/135.411(a)(2) operators have leased aircraft from other air carriers with the understanding that the aircraft will be returned to the previous operator upon termination of the lease. It may be to the lessor's advantage to have the aircraft maintained under the lessor's maintenance program rather than the lessee's program so that it can be readily integrated back into the fleet when the lease expires.

B. The key factor in this type of arrangement is the lessee's capability of accomplishing the program to the lessor's standards. The lessee's responsibility for the effectiveness of the adopted program is the same as for any other maintenance program approved for the lessee's use.

7. ACCOMPLISHING THE TASK. An operator intending to maintain a leased aircraft in accordance with the lessor's program must substantiate that:

(1) The lessor's program, as carried out by the lessee, will result in a level of airworthiness equivalent to that of the aircraft maintained by the lessee

(2) The lessee is capable of accomplishing the lessor's program with regard to facilities, equipment, personnel, training, etc.

(3) The lessee arranges for the maintenance of equipment or installations not covered by lessor's program, such as life vests, life rafts, emergency locators, pressure cylinders, etc.

(4) The lessee takes adequate steps to ensure that maintenance programs for the leased aircraft and any owned aircraft are kept separate and are applied to their respective aircraft

(5) The lessee receives and maintains the records required by FAR §§ 121.380 or 135.439 or has arranged with the lessor to gain access to these records. The lessee must have and maintain adequate records to determine the status of applicable airworthiness directives, life-limited parts, time controlled items, and inspections.

(6) The lessee has the necessary records to schedule maintenance tasks at the intervals specified by the lessor's program or has arranged with the lessor for this service

(7) The lessee has adequate manuals and technical material to accomplish the lessor's maintenance program

(8) The lessee amends its weight and balance program as necessary to accommodate the leased aircraft. This may require coordination with the Principal Operations Inspector.

(9) The lessee has procedures for reporting maintenance activities and data to the lessor (e.g., component replacements, scheduled inspections, Airworthiness Directive notes, engine trend monitoring data, and major repairs)

9. APPROVAL. Adopted maintenance programs for aircraft on lease shall be approved by operations specifications (Paragraph D80). Provisions for additional maintenance

requirements and maintenance of equipment that is not included in the lessor's program shall be listed in a

supplemental paragraph in those operations specifications (Paragraph D80-1).

Section 2 Procedures

1. PREREQUISITES AND COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Prerequisites

- Knowledge of the regulatory requirements of FAR Part 121 and 135
- Successful completion of Airworthiness Inspector's Indoctrination Course for General Aviation and Air Carrier Inspections, or previous equivalent

B. Coordination.

- This task requires coordination with the Principal Maintenance Inspector, Principal Avionics Inspector, and the Principal Operations Inspector
- This task may also require contact with the lessor's Certificate Holding District Office (CHDO) and/or the Aircraft Evaluation Group (AEG)

3. REFERENCES, FORMS, AND JOB AIDS

A. References

- FAR Parts 23, 25, and 43
- Airworthiness Directives
- Manufacturer's manuals
- 8300.10, Vol. 2, Ch. 64, Evaluate Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program/Revision, Ch. 71, Evaluate FAR Part 121 Operator's Maintenance Records, Ch. 84, FAR Part 121/135 Operations Specifications, Ch. 94, Evaluate -

FAR Part 135 (411)(a)(2) Operator's Maintenance Records, Ch. 221, Conduct Evaluation of Operator/Applicant's Maintenance Facility, and Vol. 3, Ch. 2, Conduct Spot Inspection of Operator's Aircraft

B. Forms.

- FAA Form 8400.8, Operations Specifications

C. Job Aids.

- Automated operations specifications checklists and worksheets

5. PROCEDURES

A. *Schedule and Conduct an Informal Meeting.* The operator/applicant must indicate its intention to utilize aircraft under a short term lease arrangement with the use of the lessor's maintenance program. Advise the operator/applicant of the following requirements:

(1) The aircraft must conform with all applicable requirements of FAR Part 121/135

(2) The lessee must have the capability to support and maintain aircraft in accordance with the lessor's program to include:

- Personnel
- Training
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Manuals

(3) The lessee must have current records to determine the status of the following:

- Scheduled inspections
- Airworthiness Directives
- Life limited items
- Time controlled components

(4) The lessee must have the current weight and balance data for the leased aircraft

(5) The lessee must provide a copy of the contract between the lessor and lessee to the Certificate Holding District Office (CHDO)

(6) Lessee must initiate procedures for transfer of aircraft maintenance and performance data to lessor

(7) Lessee must have procedures that ensure that maintenance programs for the leased aircraft and the lessee's own are kept separate and are applied to the respective aircraft

B. *Conduct Formal Meeting.* The operator should state that aircraft, records, facilities are ready for inspection and must present required data and proposed operations specifications.

C. *Review the Contract.* Examine the following:

- Length of contract
- Maintenance responsibilities
- Data reporting requirements

D. *Review Lessor's Maintenance Program and Operations Specifications*

E. *Review Lessee's Technical Data.* Ensure that lessee has all appropriate technical data to support the

aircraft (See Vol. 2, Ch. 64, Evaluate Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program/Revision). This includes such items as maintenance manuals, wiring manuals, etc.

F. *Ensure That Lessee Has Adequate Personnel To Support the Aircraft.* (See Vol. 2, Ch. 64, 71, Evaluate FAR Part 121 Operator's Maintenance Records, and 94, Evaluate FAR Part 135.411(a)(2) Operator's Maintenance Records)

G. *Determine If Differences in Equipment and Installations Have Been Addressed and Personnel Have Been Trained Accordingly*

H. *Ensure That Facilities Are Sufficient To Support Additional Aircraft.* (See Vol. 2, Ch. 221, Conduct Evaluation of Operator/Applicant's Maintenance Facility). This includes special tooling, test equipment, spare parts, and equipment.

I. *Determine If Adequate Procedures Are in Place to Ensure That Separation of Maintenance Programs for Leased Aircraft.* Ensure that these procedures are applied to the respective aircraft.

J. *Review Weight and Balance Data For Leased Aircraft.* Ensure that data is compatible with lessee's program. If data is not compatible, ensure that procedures have been developed and are in place.

K. *Review Aircraft Records* (See Vol. 2, Ch. 71)

L. *Inspect Aircraft, if necessary.* (See Vol. 3, Ch. 2, Conduct Spot Inspection of Operator's Aircraft)

M. *Review Operations Specifications Parts D and E.* (See Vol. 2, Ch. 84, FAR Part 121/135 Operations Specifications).

N. *Analyze Results.* Determine whether the operator/applicant meets all necessary requirements.

O. *Meet With Operator/Applicant To Discuss Deficiencies.* Advise the operator/applicant on which areas require corrective action.

7. TASK OUTCOMES

A. *File PTRS Transmittal Form*

B. Completion of this task will result in issuance of approved operations specifications.

C. *Document the Task.* File all supporting paperwork in the operator/applicant's office file.

9. FUTURE ACTIVITIES. Normal surveillance.