



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: AIR-200 Guidance Memorandum #95-7, FAA Order 8120.2A, Production Approval and Surveillance Procedures

Date: JUN 26 1995

From: Manager, Production & Airworthiness
Certification Division, AIR-200

Reply to
Attn. of: R. Tessier

(202) 267-8361

To: All Manufacturing Inspection Offices
and District/Satellite Offices

This office has been made aware of a practice within some directorates of allowing an Aircraft Certification Systems Evaluation Program (ACSEP) evaluation at a production approval holder (PAH) to substitute for ongoing surveillance of that PAH. Order 8120.2A, paragraph 26, states that it is "the responsibility of the manufacturing inspection function to conduct any surveillance necessary to ensure that these manufacturers (including any supplier facilities) remain in compliance with those pertinent rules which govern the manufacture of their particular products/parts thereof. The manufacturing function is also responsible for identifying any unsatisfactory conditions and for ensuring that prompt, corrective actions are taken when necessary." Paragraph 26 also states that surveillance is a primary function under certificate management, and that audits (or evaluations) are a separate certificate management function.

Order 8100.7, The Aircraft Certification Systems Evaluation Program, does not change any of the requirements in Order 8120.2A for ongoing surveillance. Although an ACSEP evaluation is designed to provide a comprehensive look at a facility, it is in fact a snapshot in time, and does not provide the continuous assessment of a facility necessary to identify and correct unsatisfactory conditions promptly as they occur. An ACSEP evaluation is designed to assist the principal inspector by evaluating in depth the problem subsystems identified through ongoing surveillance that the principal inspector may not be able to fully assess. An ACSEP evaluation is also designed to assist the principal inspector by indicating the problem subsystems that should be emphasized during ongoing surveillance. An ASCEP evaluation, then, can be structured by ongoing surveillance, or it can provide structure to ongoing surveillance.

All manufacturing inspection managers and principal inspectors should recognize that ongoing surveillance remains a primary function of certificate management, and should be conducted as appropriate to ensure that the PAH's approved quality system is maintained in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

If further clarification is necessary, please contact the Regulatory & Program Operations Branch, AIR-220, at (202) 267-8361.

/s/

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Gallagher", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Gallagher