



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

**JUN 05 2015**

Mr. Jim Tobul  
Formation and Safety Team  
367 Highland Cir  
Bamburg, SC 29003

Dear Mr. Tobul:

The General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, has reviewed the Formation and Safety Team (FAST) program and manual, revision 22, March 2015. The FAST program is a confederation of signatory vintage military aircraft organizations whose training programs adhere to a certain level of standardization concerning formation flying training and pilot evaluation. The FAST signatory organizations are (in alphabetical order):

1. Airpower West
2. Army Aviation Heritage Foundation
3. Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association
4. Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
5. Classic Jet Aircraft Association
6. Commemorative Air Force/TRARON
7. EAA Warbirds of America
8. Fighter Group
9. Joint Liaison Formation Committee
10. New Zealand Warbird Association
11. North American Trainer Association
12. Red Star Pilots Association
13. Sport Class Air Racing Association
14. Stearman Flight
15. Swift Formation Committee
16. T-34 Association
17. Valiant Air Command

Upon review of the FAST program documentation, we determined that successful completion of any formation flying training and evaluation program provided by any of the above listed FAST signatory organizations is an acceptable method for airmen to meet the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement, as established in FAA Order 8900.1, volume 3, chapter 6, section 1, for conducting non-aerobatic formation flight operations in

waived airspace for an aviation event. As such, otherwise qualified pilots who possess a valid formation flying qualification card issued by any one of the aforementioned signatory FAST organizations should be qualified to conduct non-aerobatic formation flying at an aviation event in the United States.

FAA acceptance of the FAST program should not be construed as a special waiver, exemption, or exception to the guidelines, provisions, and/or requirements of any Certificate of Waiver (CoW) for an aviation event and/or other pilot qualification requirements. The FAST card advises FAA field personnel that pilots who possess these cards have successfully received sufficient training and have been evaluated to conduct formation flying in a safe manner. It is expected that formation flying will be performed within all applicable guidelines and provisions of the CoW for each aviation event such as, but not limited to:

1. Adherence to appropriate showline restrictions;
2. Adherence to restrictions regarding maneuvers that direct energy toward spectators;
3. Adherence to appropriate minimum safe altitude restrictions; and,
4. Appropriate participation at pre-show briefings.

We will post this information and a list of signatory organization on our FAA intranet site notifying all inspectors that FAST continues to be an accepted formation program and pending no significant changes the approval extends through December 2017. Any changes to this manual will require revalidation by this office. We recommend that each qualified pilot carry their valid warbird organization's FAST card with them to verify their qualifications.

We appreciate the cooperation you have extended to the FAA and look forward to working with FAST in the future to assure the highest levels of aviation safety for the airshow and aviation event community. Please contact Sue Gardner, the National Aviation Events Specialist, with any questions at (847) 294-7970 or via email at [sue.gardner@faa.gov](mailto:sue.gardner@faa.gov).

Sincerely,



*for* James A. Viola  
Division Manager, General Aviation and Commercial Division