



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

JUN 05 2015

Mr. Stuart B. McCurdy
3509 Gattis School Road
Round Rock, TX 78664

Dear Mr. McCurdy:

The General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, has reviewed the Formation Flying, Incorporated (FFI) program and manual, revision 4, effective April 1, 2015. Upon review of FFI program documentation, we determined that successful completion of any formation flying training and evaluation program provided by FFI 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 FFI should be qualified to conduct non-aerobatic formation flying at an aviation event in the United States.

FAA acceptance of the FFI 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 FFI 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 altitudes;
and
4. Appropriate participation at pre-show briefings.

We will post this information on our FAA intranet site notifying all inspectors that FFI 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 FFI card with them to verify their qualifications.

We appreciate the cooperation you have extended to the FAA and look forward to working with FFI 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Viola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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