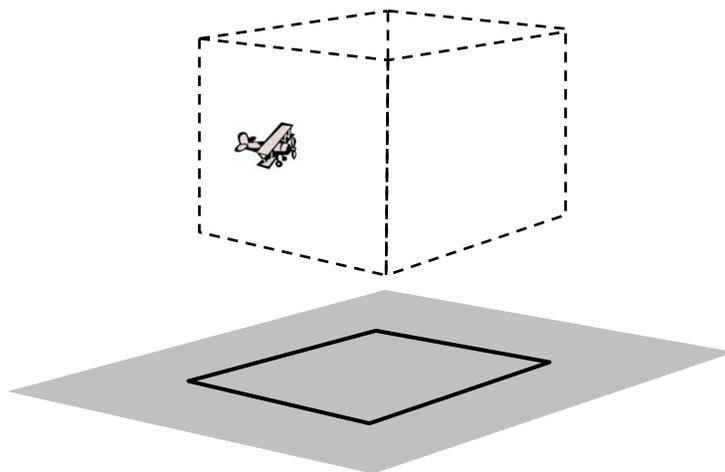




**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENTATION  
FOR  
PROPOSED AEROBATIC PRACTICE AREAS (Long Term)**

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**Ver 1.0 03 2016**



## **FAA Introduction to Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act**

The purpose of this document is to assist Sponsors applying for a Certificate of Waiver (CoW) for a Long Term Aerobatic Practice Areas (LT APAs), and the aviation safety inspectors (ASIs) in the geographically responsible FAA Flight Standards District Office, by providing information needed for the FAA to process required environmental documentation of proposed LT APAs.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to actions undertaken by the Federal Government, including the issuance of a CoW for aerobatic operations. FAA Order 1050.1, as amended, implements NEPA and associated regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality. Once the FAA determines that NEPA applies to a proposed action, it needs to decide on the appropriate level of review. The three levels of NEPA review are Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), Environmental Assessment (EA), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Each category involves a progressively more extensive evaluation of potential environmental impact. Only those aerobatic operations that are not infrequent in nature (more than 30 days) require an environmental review. It would be very rare for a LT APA (more than 30 days) to require an EIS, which is for the purpose of documenting "significant" environmental impact. LT APAs frequently involve CATEXs and sometimes EAs.

Based upon a review of the data in the Volpe Report, consultation with AVS, and absent extraordinary circumstances, the Aerobatic Actions CATEX can be utilized. The guidance memo on Aerobatic Practice Areas in the Order 1050.1F Desk Reference titled "Clarification of FAA Order 1050.1 CATEX 312b for Aerobatic Actions" will be followed when utilizing this CATEX. These documents and addition information is available at the following website and can be used when processing an Application for a LT APA CoW and EID (<http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>).

Note: The Volpe Report is addressed in guidance memo #6 for FAA Order 1050.1 (Ref, <http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>). It is the sixth in a series of memos to provide additional guidance on FAA's NEPA requirements, procedures, and practices.

If the CoW is for an APA of short duration (30 consecutive days or less), an aerobatic competition box, or an aviation event, it is a CATEX per paragraph 312b of Order 1050.1F Desk Reference. A CoW falling into these categories may include aviation events such as parachuting demonstrations, air shows, and air races.

Note: The federal action associated with an "aerobatic practice area" is the Certificate of Waiver, which is the same federal action as for an "aerobatic practice box" and the same action to which CATEX 312b is applied.

A CATEX is a statement that based on FAA's experience of assessing past actions of the same nature, no significant impacts will occur unless certain extraordinary circumstances are present (Order 1050.1, as amended). An APA that meets the requirements of Order 1050.1F Desk

Reference is eligible for a CATEX for noise and may still require that extraordinary circumstances be considered.

Below is a listing of the extraordinary circumstances that may be considered. In order to avoid potential impacts to incompatible land uses such as residences, churches, or other areas of public assembly, FAA recommends locating LT APAs over airports or areas that avoid these land uses. This can also significantly reduce FAA's technical analysis and coordination with resource agencies.

**Air Quality** – As required, impacts will be computed by FAA's environmental specialist using FAA's air quality model. Emissions must meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards that were established through the Clean Air Act. For areas that are not in attainment of these standards, FAA's environmental specialist will verify that these standards are met by using FAA's air quality model to compute emissions of the proposed APA.

**Compatible Land Use** - In accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, Appendix B, if the noise analysis described in the noise analysis section concludes that there is no significant impact, a similar conclusion can be made for compatible land use. However, if the aerobatic practice area is within 1/4 statute mile of a noise sensitive area or an area where local land use jurisdictions have adopted local noise standards that differ from FAA's significant noise threshold, FAA will disclose and elevate those local standards in its documentation of compatible land use.

**Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) Resources**- Where APAs overlie park land of national, state, or local significance; National Wildlife Refuges; or historical or archaeological resources on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; FAA will evaluate the indirect effect from aircraft noise and air quality emissions on these resources.

**Fish, Wildlife and Plants** - FAA evaluates potential effect on endangered species (Endangered Species Act), migratory bird activity (Migratory Bird Treaty Act), and non-game fish and wildlife and their habitat (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.)

**Historical, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources** - As required by the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470), Section 106, FAA will evaluate potential effect on these resources if indirect effects from aircraft noise are significant.

**Light Emissions and Visual Impacts** – Potential impacts in this area would occur only if aerobatic operations were conducted between sunset and sunrise.

**Noise** – The FAA will evaluate possible impacts from aircraft noise using a 2012, Volpe Transportation Systems Center Study on noise from aerobatic aircraft. In order to determine potential significant effect, FAA will compare the operations data of this study with the proposed APA determine probable noise levels, and compare the noise levels of the proposal with FAA land use guidelines.

**Socioeconomic Impacts, Environmental Justice, and Children's Environmental Health and Safety Risks** - In those rare cases where noise and air quality impacts are significant, FAA will assess impacts in these areas.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers** –The FAA will evaluate potential effect on these resources.

If after completion of the EA the FAA determines that there are no significant impacts as a result of the APA, then the FAA will issue either a CATEX or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). FAA Order 1050.1, as amended requires public availability of Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that result from Environmental Assessments (EA). A CATEX or a FONSI has no expiration and is valid as long as the CoW for the LT APA is valid. A draft FONSI is only valid for three years (36 calendar months).

### **International Aerobatic Club Government Relations Representatives**

The International Aerobatic Club (IAC) has government liaisons that are willing to help aerobatic practice area applicants even if they are not IAC members. The list of current government liaisons for IAC are listed on the FAA Aviation Events website: <http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>). Applicants can either contact the IAC or the FSDO for the contact information.

#### **International Aerobatic Club (IAC)**

EAA Aviation Center  
P.O. Box 3086  
Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086  
920-426-6574  
iac@eaa.org

#### **FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO)**

[www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/field\\_offices/fsdo/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/)

### **Introduction to the Environmental Information Document (EID)**

The EID that follows will help the FAA evaluate potential environmental impacts. While the applicant is not required to complete the EID to have a LT APA approved, doing so will reduce FAA processing time. The filing of the EID does not replace the need for the applicant to submit an Application for CoW (FAA Form 7711-2). This is submitted by the applicant/sponsor as an additional submission with the Application for a CoW (FAA Form 7711-2). The FSDO receiving the application must submit the EID to the FAA environmental office for review within 15 days of receipt, and notify the applicant when complete.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT



### **Instructions:**

Applicants applying for a long term aerobatic practice area (LT APA) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should complete this Environmental Information Document (EID) in addition to FAA Form 7711-2, Application for Certificate of Waiver. Completion of the EID is not a mandatory requirement to apply for a LT APA approval; however, it will expedite the FAA's assessment of environmental impacts.

The applicant should complete the EID in accordance with the following instructions, and submit the document (electronic submission preferred), with FAA Form 7711-2, to the appropriate FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO). Only one copy is required. This document must be submitted 90 days prior to the date aerobatic operations are planned to be conducted. 120 days or longer is recommended. The FSDO will send the information to the Flight Standard Environmental Office for review within 15 days of receipt.

An APA is defined in FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 5, Section 1-4 as a place where a pilot may "practice aerobatic maneuvers below an altitude of 1,500 feet above ground level...and may have dimensions of several statute miles in various directions or be as small as an aerobatic contest box for aerobatic competition or air show flying display area." Some APAs are located above 1500 feet AGL and the aerobatic maneuvers are practiced within close proximity to an airway, requiring a CoW. APA's above 1500 feet AGL typically have no impact on the environment (14 CFR 91.303 (d)).

In accordance with the FAA Order 8900.1, applicants requesting an APA must attach a current satellite photo (e.g., maps.google.com, mapquest.com, etc.) or a Topographic Quadrangle Map (published by the U.S. Geological Survey (scale 1:24,000), and a sectional map, of the proposed APA and its surroundings. The applicant should submit additional photographs and scale diagrams as supplemental material to assist in the FAA's evaluation of a particular site application for an APA approval. Any map must include accurate markings of any known public and/or tribal lands, historic and cultural resources, bodies of water (rivers, lakes, etc.) that lie within the area and noise sensitive areas within 1/4 statute mile of the APA perimeter.

It is important to note that this EID addresses only potential environmental issues. Flight Standards aviation safety inspectors (ASI) issuing the APA CoW (FAA form 7711-1) are responsible for ensuring that APAs also comply with safety standards and will assess this separately. This is not the purview of the national/regional environmental specialist.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT (EID)

### Long Term Aerobic Practice Area (LT APA)

#### I. Re-Application LT APA:

Applicants who are **RE-APPLYING** for a LT APA must submit the Application for a CoW (FAA Form 7711-2), and the required aerial diagrams. An EID is strongly recommended. When submitting an EID for a LT APA re-application, check the box below in lieu of completing all the required information on the EID.

a. **RE-APPLYING for a LT APA - FAA Form 7711-2 attached**    **Check Box**

b. An applicant for a LT APA Re-Application does not need to complete any additional information on the EID. **Do not proceed further.**

c. The FSDO must send the information to the Flight Standard Environmental Office for review within 15 days of receipt, and notify applicant.

#### II. Initial Application LT APA:

a. Applicants who are making INITIAL application for a LT APA, must submit the Application for a CoW (FAA Form 7711-2), and the required aerial diagrams. An EID is strongly suggested.

b. When submitting an EID, check the Box for each question noting that the FAA Form 7711-2 is attached, providing the requested information in lieu of completing that section of the EID.

c. Proceed to step III, Processing the EID for a LT APA.

#### III. Processing the EID for a LT APA:

Submit the Application for a CoW (FAA Form 7711-2), required aerial diagrams, and EID to the jurisdictional FSDO (electronic submission preferred).

a. This must be submitted 90 days prior to date aerobic operations are planned to begin and requested on FAA Form 7711.2.

b. 120 days or longer is recommended.

c. The FSDO must send the information to the Flight Standard Environmental Office for review within 15 days of receipt, and notify applicant when complete.

d. The jurisdictional FSDO must complete section 3 of the EID for an Initial issuance and Section 2 and 3 for a re-application of a LT APA CoW prior to submission.

**SECTION 1**

This section requires the applicant to provide information on the proposed APA, as well as details on the aircraft that will be using it.

**Applicant – Initial Application**

**1. Applicant/Sponsor Information:**

a. Check Box if (FAA Form 7711-2) attached

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Responsible Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Mailing Address: House number and street or route number

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State and ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No.

**2. 14 CFR section(s) and number(s) to be waived:**

a. Check Box if (FAA Form 7711-2) attached

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Proposed dates of the beginning and end of the requested CoW (dates are provisional):**

a. Check Box if (FAA Form 7711-2) attached

Beginning

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

End

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**4. Area of Operation:**

*Please provide the location of the APA with all corners of the APA, or central radius point, provided in latitude/longitude coordinates and altitudes in feet AGL (base and ceiling). If the APA is a circle, please provide a radius from a center, where the center is in latitude/longitude coordinates. Please attach map of area with the APA outlined.*

a. Check Box if (FAA Form 7711-2) attached

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Proposed Day(s) and Time(s) of Operation:**

a. Check Box if (FAA Form 7711-2) attached

Please provide the days and times of use (e.g. Mon thru Thu 9:00 AM to 3:00 pm, Fri and Sat 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Sun 11:30 am to 5:00 pm).

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**6. Aerobic Practice Area (APA) Use and Flight Duration:**

Number of APA activations per month	Average duration of aerobic activity per activation (minutes)	Resulting duration of aerobic activity per month (hours) (Column 1 times Column 2)	Spring (%)	Summer (%)	Fall (%)	Winter (%)

a) If any of the APA activation periods occur in the evening (7 p.m. – 10 p.m.), please state the average evening APA use per month (in hours/minutes) \_\_\_\_\_.

b) If any of the APA activation periods occur in the nighttime (10 p.m. – 6 a.m.), please state the average nighttime APA use per month (in hours/minutes) \_\_\_\_\_.

**7. Aircraft Information:**

Please list the aircraft (make and model) that will utilize the APA, and the average number of times it will conduct and aerobic routine or practice session each month.

Aircraft Make and Model	Aerobic Routine or Practice Session	Average # of Aerobic Routines or Practice Session per Month

**8. Description of land use and structures underlying and within 1/4 miles of the boundary of the APA.**

Please describe the land use (e.g. airport property, cattle grazing, hay fields, residences, industrial park, etc.), including the use of all structures located within the 1/4 statute miles boundary of the APA. Note if airport has a current EA on file and the APA is contained within the boundaries of EA.

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**SECTION 2**

**This section requests information relative to public involvement for the proposed APA. This section is to be completed by the relevant authorized FAA representatives for re-application.**

**1. Background of the APA**

*a) Please specify if the APA is:*

New \_\_\_\_ Re-application \_\_\_\_

*b) If Re-application*

*i) How many years has the aerobatic practice area been in existence? \_\_\_\_*

*ii) Has the APA been used on a regular basis? \_\_\_\_ If not: explain*

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*iii) Have there been any changes to the aerobatic practice area (hours, locations)? If so, please provide a detailed explanation, including the details of the change and why the change was made.*

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**2. Environmental Issues**

*Have there ever been any supported complaints or issues regarding environmental impacts (e.g. noise, air quality, wildlife) of the prior use of the APA? If so, please detail below (use additional sheets if necessary) Provide documentation of supported complaints/issues:*

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**3. Public Involvement**

*Provide details on any public involvement that may have occurred. This may include discussion as an agenda item at an Airport Commission or similar meeting that was open to the public, discussion with neighbors underlying the APA and within 1/4 statute mile of its lateral limits, a statement that the APA has been in effect in the past with no expressed concern, or posting of public notice of the proposed APA. Please provide a copy of all comments received as a result of any public involvement effort.*

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**SECTION 3**

**This section is to be completed by the relevant authorized FAA representatives.**

**1. Flight Standards District Office:**

*To your knowledge – has the FSDO processed any noise complaints or environmental complaints (provide PTRS record) regarding the environmental impacts resulting from the prior use of the APA. Please detail below and note location and if the complaint was outside the ¼ statute mile buffer area:*

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**END**