



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

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Production Flight Test of Balloons

Date: February 9, 2000

From: Manager, Standards Office
Small Airplane Directorate, ACE-110

To: Manager, Anchorage Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115N
Manager, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115A
Manager, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, ANE-150
Manager, Brussels Aircraft Certification Staff, AEU-100
Manager, Chicago Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115C
Manager, Denver Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100D
Manager, Ft. Worth Aircraft Certification Office, ASW-150
Manager, Ft. Worth Special Certification Office, ASW-190
Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100L
Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office, ANE-170
Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, ANM-100S
Manager, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115W

There has been a request from the field for guidance on production flight test of balloons. In the absence of any written guidance from the Directorate concerning production flight test the following is offered.

It has been the industry standard for some time that the FAA approved production flight test checklist can be accomplished during a hot inflation of the tethered balloon. This policy is satisfactory and is approved for use for all approved U.S. balloon manufacturers with a FAA approved production certificate.

If any further clarification is needed, please contact Jon Hannan, Flight Test Pilot at 816-329-4127.

Michael K. Dahl