



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

APR 12 2016

Mr. Yoshihiro Fujimaki  
Deputy Director  
Airworthiness Standards and International Affairs Office  
Japan Civil Aviation Bureau  
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8918  
Japan

Dear Mr. Fujimaki:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for airworthiness standards for normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking significantly restructures part 23 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) by replacing the current prescriptive design requirements in part 23 with performance-based standards that maintain the same level of safety. The NPRM also adds new certification standards to address general aviation loss of control accidents and inflight icing conditions.

The proposal establishes performance- and risk-based divisions for airplanes with a maximum seating capacity of 19 passengers or less and a maximum takeoff weight of 19,000 pounds or less. The FAA believes the proposed new regulatory approach will help speed the adoption of safety enhancing technologies in type-certificated small airplanes while reducing the time and cost burdens for the aviation industry and the FAA.

The FAA requests your assistance in distributing this information within your agency to create an awareness of the FAA's proposal and garner comments, as appropriate.

The FAA will accept comments after publication in the Federal Register. All comments to the NPRM can be sent electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> identified by docket number FAA-2015-1621 and following the online instructions. Other methods for submitting comments are outlined in the NPRM.

For technical questions concerning the NPRM please contact Lowell Foster at the FAA's Small Airplane Directorate in Kansas City, Missouri, via telephone (816) 329-4125 or email [lowell.foster@faa.gov](mailto:lowell.foster@faa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarbhpreet Sawhney". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a horizontal line extending to the right. The word "For" is written in a smaller, cursive font to the right of the signature.

Sarbhpreet Sawhney  
Acting Manager, International Division  
Aircraft Certification Service