

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.161

National Policy

Effective Date:
7/14/11

Cancellation Date:
7/14/12

SUBJ: LOA A001—Issuance and Applicability for Part 91

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance for aviation safety inspectors (ASI) assigned to operators conducting airplane operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91. This guidance governs the issuance and applicability of letters of authorization (LOA) pertaining to special navigation areas of operations, such as Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM).

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) ASIs. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters (HQ).

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site: https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>.

4. Background. Flight Standards Service (AFS), Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) conducted an RVSM case study involving a Gulfstream III (GLF3). The Aircraft Geometric Height Measurement Element (AGHME) in Wichita, Kansas monitored this aircraft and showed an altimetry system error (ASE) measurement magnitude of nearly -800 feet. Modified with a large equipment pod underneath its fuselage, this particular aircraft operated under an experimental airworthiness certificate. The AGHME tracked the aircraft on three separate occasions in August 2009. The observed ASE values were some of the largest ever recorded in the history of altitude monitoring.

a. Research and Development (R&D). Prior to modification, the aircraft obtained RVSM authorization. Once modified, the aircraft was issued a special airworthiness certificate in the experimental category for the purpose of R&D. The previously approved aircraft-specific RVSM maintenance program conformed to policy standards, but was dependent upon the aircraft meeting the full airworthiness requirements mandated for an aircraft holding a standard certificate. Since the experimental R&D certificate did not contain conditions and limitations that required conformity with the original type certificate (TC), the aircraft was authorized for flight without meeting all type certification requirements.


b. R&D Certificate. The aircraft as modified, holding an experimental R&D certificate, would not have qualified for RVSM as originally submitted. The issuance of a special authorization with no expiration date or provision to qualify the aircraft after a change associated with this airworthiness certification provides an inadvertent avenue for authorized operation of unqualified aircraft.

5. Guidance. Order 8900.1, FSIMS, Volume 4, Chapter 1, Section 5, Special Navigation Areas of Operation, contains guidance issuing authorizations for special navigation areas of operation, such as RVSM (operations specification (OpSpec)/management specification (MSpec)/LOA B046), including for issuing LOAs from the Web-based automated Operations Safety System (WebOPSS). To prevent continued authorization of an aircraft after changes to the airworthiness certification without appropriate evaluation, an additional qualification has been included in the template for LOA A001, paragraph 3i, in WebOPSS.

6. Action. Within 120 days after receipt of this notice, distribute to assigned operators and review each operator's LOA A001 and reissue using the updated LOA template.

7. Disposition. We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Avionics Branch, Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-360) at 202-385-6412.

for



John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. Sample LOA A001, Issuance and Applicability: 14 CFR Part 91

1. These documents are issued to XXXXXXXXXX, whose principal base of operations is located at:

Primary Business Address:

2. A change in the aircraft base of operations location constitutes an administrative change only to template A001 and would not require nor preclude a new inspection.

- a. The existing authorizations, deviations, waivers, etc., are still valid and not intended to be reissued due to a change in the Operator's base of operations.

- b. If the Operator relocates its principal base of operations (address) listed in paragraph 1 above, it must establish contact with the appropriate FSDO, where the Operator proposes to do business. The Operator must notify, in writing, the losing FSDO of its new location and mailing address as well as the receiving FSDO within 30 calendar-days following relocation. Also, the Operator must advise the losing FSDO of the receiving FSDO, where it proposes to do business.

3. The attached waivers, authorizations, and/or deviations are effective as of the "Date Approval is Effective" listed in each authorizing document, and those issued without an expiration date shall remain in effect as long as the party listed in paragraph 1 above continues to meet all appropriate parts of the CFR or until:

- a. It is voluntarily surrendered by the Operator,
 - b. The operator ceases to be the operator of the aircraft listed in the applicable authorization,
 - c. It is surrendered or revoked for cause by the FAA,
 - d. The person signing the authorizing document relinquishes responsibility,
 - e. The aircraft changes ownership and should be removed from the authorizing document,
 - f. An aircraft or listed equipment is no longer used for that operation and should be removed from the authorization,
 - g. An aircraft or other equipment needs to be added to the existing authorizing document,
 - h. An aircraft listed on the authorization changes nationality numbers,
 - i. An aircraft listed on the authorization is issued an experimental, special airworthiness certificate for research and development (R&D) or changes projects associated with an experimental, special airworthiness certificate for the purpose of R&D.

4. If the responsible person as the signee changes for an authorization, the responsible person or the Operator should notify the issuing office of the change within 30 days and request an updated letter of authorization.