

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.202

National Policy

Effective Date:
1/4/13

Cancellation Date:
1/4/14

SUBJ: Change in Rating for Repair Stations that Maintain Night Vision Goggles

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice explains to airworthiness aviation safety inspectors (ASI) a different rating for the maintenance of night vision goggles (NVG).
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is airworthiness ASIs who certificate repair stations that maintain night vision goggles.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at 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 can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.
- 4. Distribution.** The following offices will receive this notice:
 - Flight Standards Service (AFS) divisions located at the FAA headquarters (HQ) in Washington, DC;
 - Regulatory Support Division (AFS-600) at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC);
 - Regional AFS offices at the branch-level; and
 - All Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO).
- 5. Background.** NVGs have progressed over time from an emerging military technology to one that is now in daily civilian use. As NVG technology first became available for civil-use, repair stations (that performed maintenance on this emerging technology) developed their own process or used military maintenance specifications. Since NVG technology was considered unique, and maintaining the equipment was unusual, this limited the scope and availability of NVGs, NVG maintenance providers, and NVG maintenance documentation. As a result, it was appropriate for the FAA to issue repair stations a limited rating for specialized services for performing such work.

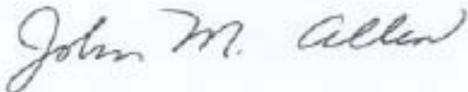
6. Discussion.

a. Performance Standards for NVGs. The FAA published Technical Standard Order (TSO-C164) titled Night Vision Goggles, for NVG manufacturers applying for a Technical Standard Order Authorization (TSOA) or a letter of design approval (LODA). TSO-C164 incorporates documents from RTCA, Inc. (previously known as the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics) that contain the minimum performance standards (MPS) and the Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) for civil-use NVGs. The certification of civil-use NVGs correlates to TSO-C164 and its referenced RTCA, Inc. documents. As the use of NVGs becomes more widespread, the number of repair stations that maintain NVGs is increasing.

b. NVG Maintenance. Maintaining NVGs is no longer novel, unique, or unusual in application. As more repair stations perform and seek to perform this type of maintenance, it is not appropriate to issue a limited rating for specialized services for future NVG ratings. Since NVGs are certificated as appliances (and they meet the requirement of a Class 3 Accessory) the FAA should issue a Class 3 Accessory or Limited Accessory rating, as appropriate, to repair stations that apply for a rating and that meet the requirements of part 145.

7. Action. Airworthiness ASIs should ensure that future applicants, who apply for a repair station certificate or an added rating for NVG maintenance, understand that the rating issued for such maintenance is Class 3 Accessory or Limited Accessory, as appropriate.

8. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning NVG-specific maintenance issues to the General Aviation Branch (AFS-350) at 202-385-6400. Direct questions concerning repair station issues to the Repair Station Branch (AFS-340) at 202-385-4277.



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