



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
National Policy

NOTICE
N 8000.359

Effective Date:
4/3/07

Cancellation Date:
4/3/08

SUBJ: Expiration Date on FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Acrobatic Competency

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) with updated guidance regarding the expiration date on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Form 8710-7, Statement of Acrobatic Competency.

2. Audience. We will distribute this notice to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters, including the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; and to all FSDOs.

3. Where Can I Find This Notice. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avr.faa.gov>. Operators may find this information on the FAA's Web site at http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/examiners_inspectors/8000.

4. Background.

a. According to industry guidelines, the Statement of Acrobatic Competency expired 12 months from the date of the required acrobatic competency evaluator (ACE) evaluation.

b. Renewals were conducted up to 120 days in advance and maintained the same expiration date, requiring many air show performers to get their ACE evaluation before the air show season began. This resulted in evaluations conducted in conditions that were not challenging, such as those in large acrobatic practice areas at low density altitudes that were amplified by cooler winter weather.

5. Policy.

a. FAA Order 8700.10, General Aviation Operations Inspector's Handbook, chapter 31, section 1, paragraph 5 explains that the Statement of Acrobatic Competency expiration date is in accordance with industry guidelines as described in the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) ACE manual. The ACE manual can be found on the ICAS Web site at <http://www.icashq.org>.

b. Effective January 1, 2007, all Statement of Acrobatic Competency cards due to expire in 2007 will expire on December 31, 2007. Renewals accomplished in 2007 will expire on December 31, 2008.

Distribution: A-W(FS)-2; A-X(FS)-3; A-FFS-7 (LTD); AMA-200 (12 cys) **Initiated By:** AFS-800
(Electronically: A-W(FS)-2; A-X(FS)-2; A-FFS-7)

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6. Guidance.

a. Changing the expiration date to December 31 of the year following the ACE evaluation allows for the challenging conditions present at an air show, such as limited airspace and higher density altitudes.

b. Newly issued cards and cards renewed while still valid will expire on December 31 of the following year (e.g., a renewal done with a valid card in 2008 will expire December 31, 2009).

c. If a card has expired, it must be reinstated and will expire on December 31 of the year it was reinstated. For example, if a card is valid until December 31, 2007, but the reevaluation isn't accomplished until January of 2008, then:

(1) The card will expire on December 31, 2008.

(2) The card holder must accomplish another evaluation in 2008, giving the card an expiration date of December 31, 2009.

(3) If the card holder waits until January 2009 to get an evaluation, the card will expire on December 31, 2009.

7. **Disposition.** We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice in FSIMS before this notice expires. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, at (202) 267-8212.



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