

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

National Policy

N 8000.373

Effective Date: 10/01/14

Cancellation Date: 09/30/15

SUBJ: AOV Credentialing and Control Tower Operator Certification Programs

1. Purpose of this Notice. This notice amends the subject Order to change the requirements for issuing an Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS) Credential with a Tower Rating, to rename the AOV Credential to Air Traffic Safety Oversight Credential, and to change the title of the FAA Order 8000.90A.

2. Audience. Organizations and personnel who certify or perform direct safety-related air traffic control services and/or certification on certifiable systems, subsystems, and services in support of the NAS.

3. Where can I Find This Notice? This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at: <u>https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/</u>.

4. Explanation of Policy Change. This notice changes the certification requirements for issuing an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating. AOV previously issued this credential after the holder certified on their first operational position. This change requires an ATCS to certify on the Local Control position to obtain an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating. Additionally, any reference to AOV Credential is being changed to Air Traffic Safety Oversight Credential to correctly indicate the source and authority of the credential.

5. Action. Amend FAA Order 8000.90A dated February 22, 2011:

a. Change title of Order to read: Air Traffic Safety Oversight Credentialing and Control Tower Operator Certification Programs

b. Change paragraph 7-1b to read: Holds at least one position certification (an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating will only be issued to those who have completed Local Control certification); and Change paragraph 7-2a(1)(b) to read: Holds Local Control position certification, as annotated on the credential holder's FAA Form 3120-1 (or equivalent).

c. Add after paragraph 7-2a(1)(b): NOTE: Prior to issuance of an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating an individual may work other positions (Ground Control, Clearance Delivery, or Flight Data) provided a certification was performed and those certifications are annotated on

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their training records. The individual must perform these duties under the general supervision of the holder of an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating for that facility.

d. Change Figure 7-1, Block 4 (from the top) to read: Acquires at least one position certification. AOV will only issue an ATCS Credential with a Tower rating to those who complete Local Control Certification.

6. Distribution. To the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, and Mission Support; Office of the Service Center; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

7. Background:

a. The FAA established the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service (AOV) in 2005 to provide independent oversight of air traffic control services. The Administrator charged AOV with managing the CTO Certificate program, as part of its oversight responsibilities. In 2006, the Administrator issued FAA Order 1100.161 Change 1, *Air Traffic Safety Oversight*, which added a Credentialing program for air traffic safety personnel to AOV's responsibilities.

b. Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), part 65, prescribes the requirements to obtain a Control Tower Operator (CTO) certificate. An Air Traffic Controller qualifies for a CTO certificate after meeting the requirements in 14 CFR 65.31.

c. The Credentialing Program is comparable to the CTO Certificate program except it applies to all FAA air traffic controllers, including those who work in En Route, Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), and tower facilities. While the AOV Credential is comparable to a CTO certificate, the requirements to obtain each are different. However, this change makes the requirements the same, because a certification in Local Control position is now required for both.

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