

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.237

National Policy

Effective Date:
9/19/13

Cancellation Date:
9/19/14

SUBJ: Authorization to Use Night Vision Imaging Systems under Part 91

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides guidance to aviation safety inspectors (ASI) providing oversight of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91 operators conducting operations in aircraft that are equipped with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS).
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) ASIs with General Aviation (GA) responsibilities. 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 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 FAA's Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov/>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.
- 4. Background.** Night vision goggle (NVG) operation is the common term used where visual surface reference is maintained with NVGs in an aircraft with an FAA-approved NVIS installation. Many Supplemental Type Certificates (STC) issued for NVIS include the following statement or similar requirement in the "Limitations" section of the FAA-approved Flight Manual Supplement: "Installation of this night vision imaging system (NVIS) lighting does not include or imply approval for flight operations with night vision goggles (NVG). The operator must receive approval from their civil aviation operational authority to operate with NVGs."

 - a. NVG Operations Requiring Approval.** Flight Standards policy requires program managers under part 91 subpart K (part 91K) and certificate holders under 14 CFR parts 121, 125, 133, 135, 137, 141, and 142 to request and receive FAA approval to conduct NVG operations under those parts. This approval is issued via operations specifications (OpSpecs), management specifications (MSpecs), training specifications (TSpecs) or Letters of Authorization (LOA), as appropriate. Approval is also required for part 91 operations requiring LOA, such as nonstop Commercial Air Tours conducted under part 91 § 91.147.
 - b. NVG Operations Not Requiring Approval.** Part 91 operators not operating under part 91K or an LOA do not require operational approval to conduct NVG operations. However,

the NVIS installation must be FAA-approved, and the NVG used must be compatible with the NVIS installation. All pilots and operators, including those operating under part 91, must comply with the applicable NVG regulatory requirements in 14 CFR parts 61 and 91.

5. Guidance. Process all requests for FAA operational approval to use NVGs in accordance with the following:

a. Part 135 Operations. Follow the guidance contained in FAA Order 8900.1 Volume 4, Chapter 7, Section 4, Night Vision Imaging Systems.

b. Part 91 Operations. For part 91 operations requiring an LOA, direct the operator to include NVG in the LOA application letter. For all other part 91 operations, advise the operator that no FAA operational approval is required, but the equipment installation must have FAA approval and the operator must meet the requirements for NVGs contained in parts 61 and 91.

c. Part 121 or 142 Operations. Direct the operator to submit a written request for NVG authorization to the principal operations inspector (POI) and forward the request to the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200).

d. Part 91K, 125, 133, 137, or 141 Operations. Direct the operator to submit a written request for NVG authorization to the POI. The request can be forwarded to the General Aviation and Commercial Division (AFS-800) through the regional office if additional assistance is needed.

6. Action. Process requests for NVIS authorization using this guidance and the applicable guidance from Order 8900.1.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to AFS-800 at (202)-385-9600.

for 

John S. Duncan
Director, Flight Standards Service