

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.242

National Policy

Effective Date:
11/22/13

Cancellation Date:
11/22/14

SUBJ: OpSpec/MSpec A010, Aviation Weather Information

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice continues the remaining compliance period for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135, and announces updated guidance related to Operations Specification (OpSpec)/Management Specification (MSpec) A010 nonstandard authorizations for all certificate holders and program managers.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) (including Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) and certificate management office (CMO)), principal operations inspectors (POI) and aviation safety inspectors (ASI). The secondary audience includes regional Flight Standards divisions (RFSD) and headquarters (HQ) policy divisions.
- 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 (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. Cancellation.** This notice cancels N 8900.210, OpSpec/MSpec A010, Aviation Weather Information, dated 03/12/2013, which applies to FAA Flight Standards Field Offices (FSFO) with oversight responsibility of program managers and certificate holders conducting operations in accordance with 14 CFR parts 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 125, and 135. The part 91K and 121 compliance period contained in N 8900.210 was 120 days. It concluded on July 10, 2013. The part 135 compliance period contained in N 8900.210 was one year from the date of publication.
- 5. Background.** In October of 2012, the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) published significant updates to guidance related to the regulatory requirements for aviation weather information and OpSpec/MSpec A010. The October 2012 update was initially announced by N 8900.199. In March of 2013, N 8900.210 was published, cancelling N 8900.199. N 8900.210 announced another revision to the A010 template, and minor changes to the October 2012 guidance that applied to the template change. Based on events that occurred during the completion of the N 8900.210 actions for part 91K and 121 program managers/certificate holders, AFS-200 has determined the necessity to publish additional updates to guidance related to A010 nonstandard authorizations.

6. Guidance and Updated Checklist. Updated guidance is contained in FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2. It emphasizes the requirement for certificate holders/program managers/operators to demonstrate an equivalent or greater level of safety when requesting a nonstandard authorization in OpSpec/MSpec A010. This updated guidance emphasizes the existing requirements related to nonstandard authorizations that are already published in Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2. Appendix A of this notice provides an update to the checklist that was originally contained in N 8900.199 and N 8900.210. The updated checklist mirrors the current requirements now contained in Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2. This checklist represents what information is required when seeking AFS-200 approval to list a weather source in OpSpec/Mspec A010, through the use of nonstandard text, in lieu of certificate holder/program manager developing an Enhanced Weather Information System (EWINS). It's important to understand that an EWINS is approved at the local level by the POI. If a certificate holder/program manager/operator elects not to have an EWINS, then a POI will require HQ approval to list any weather source other than what is automatically *selectable* in OpSpec/MSpec A010, and outlined in Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2, paragraphs 3-2073 and 3-2074. A HQ level approval requires not only the POI's approval, but it also requires approval from the POI's office manager, the RFSM manager and the manager of AFS-200, after receiving technical review and concurrence from the appropriate branch managers.

7. Action. The following pertains to part 135 POIs ONLY.

a. N 8900.210 Compliance Period Continued. The compliance period initiated by N 8900.210 is still in effect for part 135. POIs of part 135 certificate holders have until March 12, 2014 to issue the OpSpec A010 template, HQ Rev 040. The expiration date of the previous part 135 A010 template coincides with this date.

b. Notify Certificate Holders. POIs of certificate holders conducting part 135 operations, must notify each certificate holder as soon as practicable, of the requirements contained in this notice, OpSpec A010 Rev 040, and Volume 3, Chapter 26, Sections 1 through 4.

8. Tracking. Part 135 POIs will document the notification to each certificate holder in the Enhanced Flight Standards Automation System (eFSAS).

a. Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) code. Use PTRS code 1030, STAFF/AMIN/CONVEY NONREG SFTY.

b. Designator. Enter each certificate holder designation in the "Designator."

c. National Use Field. Enter "A010" in the "National Use" field (without the quotes).

d. Close the PTRS. Close the PTRS after providing the information to the certificate holder.

9. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice to the New Program Implementation Branch (AFS-240) at 202-267-8166.

for

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John S. Duncan", is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

John S. Duncan
Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. Checklist for Obtaining Approval from AFS-200 to Add a Weather Source to OpSpec/Mspec A010

Principal operations inspectors (POI) of certificate holders or program managers who do not have an Enhanced Weather Information System (EWINS) must obtain approval from the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) to allow a certificate holder/program manager to use an aviation weather report or forecast prepared by a source other than the ones listed below. AFS-200 will grant approval if the certificate holder/program manager demonstrates an equivalent or greater level of safety to an EWINS.

- The National Weather Service (NWS) or a source approved by the NWS (within the 48 contiguous United States and the District of Columbia),
- The NWS for those United States and U.S. territories located outside of the 48 contiguous States,
- U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military observing and forecasting sources,
- Meteorological offices operated by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) member states,
- ICAO member state, authorized meteorological station, or automated observation,
- Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
- For reports of adverse weather phenomena: Pilot Weather Reports (PIREP) provided by aircraft of the same, or similar, type and size, and
- For reports of adverse weather phenomena: Aircraft Reports (AIREP) provided by aircraft of the same or similar type and size.

In order to obtain approval from AFS-200, POIs must follow the guidance in FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2, Regulatory Sources of Aviation Weather Information and Aviation Weather Information Systems—Parts 91K, 121, and 135, paragraph 3-2075, and submit the following information to AFS-200:

- a. **The Name of the Weather Source.** Provide the name of the weather source (e.g., the certificate holder, a vendor, or other entity).
- b. **The Reason for the Need to Use the Weather Source.** Provide the reason for the need to use the weather source. For example, NWS information that is not available at the station.
- c. **The Equivalent or Greater Level of Safety.** Provide a detailed description of the equivalent or greater level of safety provided by using the particular weather provider without having an EWINS.
- d. **The Method of Dissemination.** Provide information on how the certificate holder/program manager proposes to obtain and disseminate the weather report or forecast (e.g., through their dispatch or flight following system, via the Internet, or by voice).
- e. **Certificate Holder's/Program Manager's Training Program.** Provide a copy of the portion of the certificate holder's/program manager's training program for flightcrew members,

dispatchers, or persons authorized to exercise operational control that contains instruction on the use of the weather report or forecast prepared by the weather source.

f. Weather Provider's Training Program. Provide a copy of the Weather Provider's Training Program. Provide a copy of the training program for weather provider personnel that will be involved in generating weather reports or forecasts for the certificate holder.

g. The Weather Provider's Personnel Qualifications. Provide information that shows that the personnel who will be generating the weather information for the certificate holder have qualifications that meet or exceed those contained in Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 4, subparagraph 3-2124A.

h. Additional Information for Weather Reports. In addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a. through e. above:

(1) The location(s) at which the certificate holder/program manager intends to use the weather report.

(2) The elements that will be reported (for example, temperature, visibility, wind direction, and wind speed. Refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2, subparagraph 3-2072D, for a full list of required elements contained in a weather report.

(3) The method the certificate holder or program manager proposes for maintaining, or ensuring the maintenance (to certificated standards) of, the weather sensing equipment used in generating the weather report.

Note: POIs should be prepared to submit additional information to AFS-200 upon request.