

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.263

National Policy

Effective Date:  
5/19/14

Cancellation Date:  
5/19/15

**SUBJ:** Part 121, 121/135, and 135 (10 or more) Part D and E Operations  
Specifications (OpSpecs) Nonstandard Language Authorizations

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**1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice reviews a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy revision to FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS). Specifically, the review is for Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2, Paragraph 3-713 concerning the use of operations specifications (OpSpecs) nonstandard authorizations. The revision includes additional requirements to perform when approving or revising the OpSpec nonstandard language entries.

**2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice includes Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121, 121/135, and part 135 (10 or more) principal maintenance inspectors (PMI) and principal avionics inspectors (PAI). Additional audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) headquarters (HQ) personnel who approve and/or review operator OpSpec authorizations.

**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](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](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices).

**4. Distribution.** The following offices will receive this notice:

- AFS divisions located at FAA HQ in Washington, DC;
- Regional AFS offices at the branch level; and
- All certificate-holding district offices (CHDO).

**5. Background.** AFS HQ has discovered cases of missing HQ approval memorandums for nonstandard OpSpecs issued to some air carriers. Without this information, it is impossible to substantiate or verify the nonstandard OpSpecs was properly issued. This Notice addresses this issue, as noted in paragraph 1.

**6. Discussion.** Once FAA HQ approves a request for the nonstandard authorization, the principal inspector (PI) may issue the nonstandard OpSpec/letter of authorization (LOA), or optional/nonstandard text in the Web-based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS).

**a. Nonstandard Authorizations Issued Since Publication of 8900.1, Change 254 to Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2.** PIs should note that Change 254 to Order 8900.1 added the following requirement to paragraph 3-713 C6 of Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2: For all nonstandard authorizations issued after April 01, 2013, the PI must include the HQ policy division number and division approval date within the text of the nonstandard authorization. For example: *Approval provided by AFS-300 04/01/13.*

**b. Retention of OpSpecs Authorization/Approval Memos.** In accordance with Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2, paragraph 3-713 F2, the CHDO will retain all OpSpecs Authorization/Approval memos for the life of the authorization. The CHDO may destroy the memo 5 years after the OpSpec authorization is cancelled.

**7. Action.** Within 90 days of the date of this notice, PIs responsible for authorization and approval of part 121, 121/135 and/or part 135 (10 or more) part D (Maintenance) and part E (Weight and Balance (W&B)) OpSpec paragraphs must audit their operator-issued nonstandard language authorizations and their current use. After the PI verifies and accepts all nonstandard language D and E paragraphs, and the supporting documentation is in order, he or she completes a Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) record (Activity Code 3314 or 3316 as applicable), and must enter NSTDOK in the "National Use" block of the PTRS record.

**Note:** If during audit, any part D or E OpSpec paragraphs are found to contain unsubstantiated nonstandard language, inspectors should refer to 14 CFR part 119, § 119.51 for amendment procedures.

**8. Disposition.** The information in this notice has been incorporated into Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2 as Change 254, dated March 12, 2013. You may direct questions concerning nonstandard language approval requirements to the Air Carrier Maintenance Branch (AFS-330) at (202) 385-6435.



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