

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.356

National Policy

Effective Date:
3/22/16

Cancellation Date:
3/22/17

SUBJ: Issue/Renew/Reevaluate/Rescind FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice addresses new and revised policy established in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, Issue/Renew/Rescind a Statement of Acrobatic Competency. The new policy pertains to the issuance of FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC), and the new requirements established in the FAA-accepted Aerobatic Competency Evaluation Programs (ACE Program). It also captures the new policy to create an FAA eForm for FAA Form 8710-7. The notice also addresses proposed changes related to processes for the reevaluation and rescission of a SAC.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who issue a SAC, issue a Certificate of Waiver (CoW) for an air show, or conduct surveillance of an air show authorized under a CoW. 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 FSIMS at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this information 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. According to FAA policy, a civil pilot who wishes to perform aerobatics or certain other flight operations at a public aviation event (air show) issued a CoW must possess a valid SAC. This requirement is further mandated by the special provisions that are part of the CoW issued for an air show by the FAA.

a. SAC Issuance. A civil pilot, to include foreign civil pilots, obtains a SAC by successfully completing an aerobatic competency evaluation that an industry-designated aerobatic competency evaluator (ACE) gives in accordance with the provisions of an FAA-accepted ACE Program.

b. FAA-Accepted ACE Programs. The International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Warbirds of America (WoA) have met the

requirements for an FAA-accepted ACE Program and have been issued a letter of authorization (LOA) from the General Aviation and Commercial Division (AFS-800).

c. Revisions to FAA Form 8710-7. FAA Form 8710-7 is revised to address the new requirements for the issuance of a SAC, established in the ICAS and EAA WoA FAA-accepted ACE Programs. It is also revised to create an FAA eForm that will eliminate the need for FSDOs to type the form on a 2- by 3-inch card stock, reducing workload and paperwork.

5. Current Policy. Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, establishes current policy addressing the issuance, renewal, reevaluation, or rescission of a SAC and the requirements for the content of an FAA-issued SAC.

6. Policy Changes Addressing SAC. Policy is revised to address the new requirements for the issuance of a SAC, encompassing the new requirements established in the ICAS and EAA WoA FAA-accepted ACE Programs, and to address proposed changes in Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, described below.

a. Revisions to ACE Programs and Order 8900.1. The FAA recently accepted revisions to the ACE Programs for ICAS and EAA WoA that established the following requirements. In parallel, the FAA policy in Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, will be revised to reflect how the FAA will implement changes through the issuance of a new SAC (see Appendix A, FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)).

(1) FAA Form 8710-7 is used to issue a SAC based on ICAS and EAA WoA recommendations in accordance with their FAA-accepted ACE Programs. The FAA Form 8710-7 expires in accordance with the FAA-accepted ACE Programs for ICAS and EAA WoA. LOA J503, Letter of Authorization for Aerobatic Competency, issued from the FAA Web-based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS), may be used in lieu of FAA Form 8710-7.

(2) In order to exercise the privileges of a SAC, a pilot must be qualified, proficient, and current in the aircraft and endorsements he or she is exercising. The authorized aircraft, aircraft category, level, and endorsements in which a performer is qualified and proficient may be found on the performer's SAC. Placement and removal of authorized aircraft, aircraft category, level, and endorsements will now be required and based upon recommendations made by the ICAS or EAA WoA ACE during initial or subsequent evaluations and accomplished in accordance with the FAA-accepted ACE Program. A current copy of the ICAS and EAA WoA ACE Program is available on the FAA employees' intranet site at <https://my.faa.gov/org/linebusiness/avs/offices/afs/programs/airshows.html>.

(3) Individuals requiring a SAC will be referred to an appropriately qualified ACE designated by ICAS or EAA WoA. An ACE will forward a written recommendation to the FSDO through the appropriate organization. The ACE will also recommend authorized aircraft within standard categories, levels, and endorsements to an individual's SAC based upon observed performance.

b. Changes to Figure 5-165. ASIs and aviation safety technicians (AST) should note that Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, Figure 5-165, FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency, will be changed (see Appendix A) and will be available as an FAA eForm on the FAA employees' intranet site at <https://my.faa.gov/org/linebusiness/avs/offices/afs/programs/airshows.html>.

c. Dynamic Maneuvering—Solo or Formation. An appropriately qualified and designated industry ACE will evaluate dynamic maneuvering flight—solo or formation in all aircraft. A new endorsement for dynamic maneuvering for solo and formation, as defined in this notice, is authorized. Dynamic maneuvering in the aerobatic box requires a civilian pilot to hold a SAC with an endorsement for dynamic maneuvering—solo or dynamic maneuvering—formation. Dynamic maneuvering is defined as maneuvering in the air show demonstration area beyond standard maneuvering limitations:

(1) In a solo flight, maneuvers that include abrupt maneuvering, pitch angles that *do not exceed* 60 degrees above or below the horizon, and/or bank angles that *do not exceed* 90 degrees in reference to the horizon.

(2) In a formation flight, maneuvers including formation and position changes, rejoins, formation separation (e.g., bomb bursts), crossing maneuvers, and opposing maneuvers with pitch angles that *do not exceed* 60 degrees above or below the horizon, and/or bank angles that *do not exceed* 75 degrees in reference to the horizon when flying in formation.

Note: Solo maneuvers conducted after a formation has separated may be performed within the dynamic maneuvering—solo limitations.

d. Rotorcraft Evaluations. An appropriately qualified and designated industry ACE can evaluate aerobatic flight demonstrations performed in rotorcraft and non-aerobatic formation flight in rotorcraft. ICAS evaluates all rotorcraft operations. An FAA inspector is no longer authorized to conduct rotorcraft evaluations for the issuance of a SAC.

e. Changes to Figure 5-166. ASIs and ASTs should note that Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 9, Section 1, Figure 5-166, List of Maneuver Limitations for FAA Form 8710-7, will be changed (see Appendix B, Aircraft Category, Level, and Endorsements for FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)).

f. Reporting Accidents and Incidents. All accidents and incidents that occur during an aviation event issued a CoW must be reported to the Regional Aviation Events Specialist (RAES) within 24 hours and the National Aviation Events Specialist (NAES), as required (refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 6, Section 1, Issue a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization for an Aviation Event).

(1) The inspector-in-charge (IIC) for the aviation event should coordinate with the RAES and ICAS or EAA WoA and validate within 24 hours that a performer involved in the accident or incident will require reevaluation of the performer's competency to hold his or her SAC.

(2) If the FAA decides to reevaluate the performer's competency, the FSDO conducting the investigation will rescind the performer's SAC in accordance with Order 8900.1, Volume 5,

Chapter 9, Section 1. In all cases, when a reevaluation is required, privileges are suspended pending the successful outcome of the reevaluation.

(3) Incidents or accidents that involve the holder of SAC outside of the air show environment must be reported to ICAS or EAA WoA within 24 hours.

(a) The holder of a SAC must notify ICAS or EAA WoA.

(b) A FSDO conducting the investigation of an incident or accident that involves the holder of a SAC must notify ICAS or EAA WoA and the FSDO that issued the SAC within 24 hours.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 and other applicable FAA guidance before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to Sue Gardner, General Aviation Operations Branch (AFS-830), at 847-294-7970 or email Sue.Gardner@faa.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Barbagallo". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.


John Barbagallo
Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)

Figure 5-165. FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)

STATEMENT OF AEROBATIC COMPETENCY (SAC)
FAA FORM 8710-7

Date: 02/24/2016



US Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

Pilot: Dan Pilot
Certificate Type/No: ATP 321654978
Phone: 317-555-0668
Email: dan@pilot.com
SAC Issuance: 02/24/2016
SAC Proficiency Expiration: 12/31/2017

FAA ASI: Inspector Gardner
FSDO: DuPage
Signature:
Phone: 812-555-1234
Email: inspector@faa.gov

ICAS Recommendation
Waiver ID 654789

AUTHORIZED AIRCRAFT	AUTHORIZED AIRCRAFT CATEGORY	ALTITUDE LEVEL	SHOW LINE CATEGORY	ENDORSEMENTS: ALL AIRCRAFT CATEGORIES	EXPIRATION DATE-AIRCRAFT CATEGORY/LEVEL/ENDORSEMENT
North American P-51 Mustang	Category C: Piston Warbird Aerobatics	Level 1: Unrestricted	CAT II	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolls Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerobatics: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formation <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic Maneuvering: <input type="checkbox"/> Solo <input type="checkbox"/> Formation <input type="checkbox"/> Night Shows <input type="checkbox"/> Pyro <input type="checkbox"/> Wing Walking <input type="checkbox"/> Inverted Ribbon Cut <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Fight <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy <input type="checkbox"/> Car-to-Plane Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Car-Top Landing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circle the Jumpers <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	01/31/2015
Aero Vodochody L-39 Albatros	Category B: Jet Warbird Aerobatics	Level 1: Unrestricted	CAT I		02/28/2019

I understand that this statement of competency does not authorize deviation from 14 CFR Part 91 except as defined in a waiver and the terms of a Special Provision contained in a Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-1) for an Airshow.

PILOT SIGNATURE _____

DATE 02/24/2016

**Appendix B. Aircraft Category, Level, and Endorsements for FAA Form 8710-7,
Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)****Figure 5-166. Aircraft Category, Level, and Endorsements for FAA Form 8710-7,
Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC)**

The following is a listing of maneuver limitations for use in completing FAA Form 8710-7, Statement of Aerobatic Competency (SAC).

A. ICAS ACE Program.

- 1) Category: A generic classification of aircraft with similar performance capabilities.
 - a) Category A: Sport Aerobatics.
 - b) Category B: Jet Warbird Aerobatics.
 - c) Category C: Piston Warbird Aerobatics.
 - d) Category D: Sailplane Aerobatics.
 - e) Category E: Helo Aerobatics.

- 2) Level: Minimum altitude above ground level (AGL) authorized to start and complete aerobatic maneuvers.
 - a) Level 4: 800 feet.
 - b) Level 3: 500 feet.
 - c) Level 2: 250 feet.
 - d) Level 1: Unrestricted.

- 3) Endorsements:
 - a) Rolls Only.
 - b) Solo Aerobatics.
 - c) Formation Aerobatics.
 - d) Dynamic Maneuvering.
 - i. Solo.
 - ii. Formation.
 - e) Night Shows.
 - f) Pyro.
 - g) Wing Walking.
 - h) Inverted Ribbon Cut.
 - i) Dog Fight.
 - j) Comedy.
 - k) Car-to-Plane Transfer.
 - l) Aerial Transfer.
 - m) Car-Top Landing.
 - n) Circle the Jumpers.
 - o) Other, as specified by the evaluator and approved by the ICAS ACE committee and AFS-800 National Aviation Events Specialist (NAES).

B. EAA WoA ACE Program.

- 1) Category: A generic classification of aircraft with similar performance capabilities.
 - a) Category B: Jet Warbird Aerobatics.
 - b) Category C: Piston Warbird Aerobatics.
- 2) Level: Minimum altitude AGL authorized to start and complete aerobatic maneuvers.
 - a) Level 4: 800 feet.
 - b) Level 3: 500 feet.
 - c) Level 2: 250 feet.
- 3) Endorsements:
 - a) Rolls Only.
 - b) Loops, Rolls, and Any Combination Thereof.
 - c) Dog Fight.
 - d) Dynamic Maneuvering.
 - i. Solo.
 - ii. Formation.