

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.483

National Policy

Effective Date:
9/21/18

Cancellation Date:
9/21/19

SUBJ: Public Aircraft Operations

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces revisions to Advisory Circular (AC) 00-1.1, Public Aircraft Operations—Manned and Unmanned, and the supporting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1 policy. This notice also highlights the planned surveillance and documentation requirements for public aircraft operations (PAO).

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the appropriate Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO), aviation safety inspectors (ASI), principal inspectors (PI), and certificate management offices (CMO). The secondary audience includes appropriate FSDO managers and supervisors, other operational employees, and Flight Standards divisions and branches.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website 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 website at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. Industry questions, Safety Assurance office concerns, and numerous safety recommendations from the field have triggered the Commercial Operations Branch to conduct a thorough review of PAO-related guidance and policy. The review revealed that planned surveillance of PAO is not being conducted and/or documented in accordance with FAA Order 1800.56, National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines, and related guidance and policy. The Commercial Operations Branch has revised AC 00-1.1 and the supporting policy in Order 8900.1 to provide detailed information essential for safe operations and surveillance with regard to PAO.

5. Policy and Guidance Changes. The Commercial Operations Branch has revised the following documents:

a. AC 00-1.1, Public Aircraft Operations—Manned and Unmanned.

b. FAA Order 1800.56, National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines.

The following paragraphs have been updated in Order 1800.56S, dated August 17, 2018:

- Subparagraph 10h, Public Aircraft Operations (PAO); and
- Appendix A, Subparagraph 5d, Planned Surveillance.

c. FAA Order 8900.1:

- Volume 3, Chapter 14, Section 1, General Information on Public Aircraft Operations; and
- Volume 3, Chapter 14, Section 2, Public Aircraft Operations and Surveillance Government Aircraft Operations Versus Civil Aircraft Operations.

6. Action. ASIs should review AC 00-1.1 and Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 14, Sections 1 and 2.

Note: Government-owned aircraft operators that are conducting PAO with only non-FAA-certificated aircraft do not require FAA surveillance.

a. PAO Compliance and Documentation. To comply with this notice, ASIs must conduct annual planned surveillance activities to verify that PAO status remains unchanged in accordance with Order 1800.56. The ASI must document this verification in accordance with Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 14, Section 2.

(1) When contacting government-owned aircraft operators who are conducting PAO exclusively with FAA-certificated aircraft (i.e., FAA Airworthiness Certificate) that are not associated with an FAA Air Operator/Air Carrier/Air Agency Certificate, the inspector will use Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) code 1470, 3470, or 5470 to document the verification that their PAO status remains unchanged. These codes have been changed and do not require an entry in the “14 CFR” field. Each appropriate FSDO will verify that all PTRS entries associated with government-owned aircraft include either the word “public” (exclusively used in public operations) or the word “civil” (civil operations) as the first characters in the “National Use” field. If the operator has both public and civil operations, enter “civil” in the “National Use” field.

(2) All other activities in association with government-owned aircraft operators (i.e., spot inspection – 3628/5628) will use the same activity code (i.e., 1470, 3470, or 5470) and then enter the applicable PTRS activity code (i.e., 3628/5628) in the tracking block. It is critical to enter the N-number into the “Aircraft Registration Number” block. The N-number for each aircraft operated by the government agency should be entered into the initial PTRS action for that agency. If more than one aircraft is operated, enter the additional registration numbers in the comment section using opinion code “I” and comment code “816.” For Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), the miscellaneous (“Misc”) field is an optional field in the PTRS record and shall be used if the UAS has a registration number that begins with “FA.”

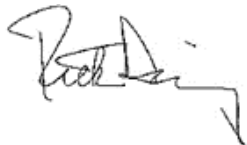
(3) For UAS operators, populate the “National Use” field in the PTRS as follows: UAS (hyphen) followed by the type of operator (Public (P), Civil (C), or Military (M)) (hyphen) followed by the size (Large (L) or Small (S)). For example:

- UAS-M-L = UAS, Military operator, Large aircraft.
- UAS-P-L = UAS, Public operator, Large aircraft.
- UAS-C-S = UAS, Civil operator, Small aircraft.

b. Civil Aircraft Operation Compliance. Government-owned, FAA-certificated aircraft that are not operated as public aircraft will need to comply with all of the appropriate certification, maintenance, and operating rules that apply to civil aircraft operations. Government-owned aircraft operators that are conducting civil aircraft operations with FAA-certificated aircraft are required to have a 14 CFR part 125 deviation designator and certificate number assigned to them by the Aviation Data Systems Branch and tracked in the enhanced Vital Information Database (eVID). The assignment of a part 125 deviation designator and certificate number is for tracking purposes only; they are not deviation holders. To obtain this part 125 deviation designator and certificate number, please email 9-amc-afs620-certinfo@faa.gov.

c. Surveillance. Surveillance of government-owned or government-contracted aircraft associated with Air Operator/Air Carrier/Air Agency Certificates will be captured in accordance with the civil operator's normal certificate work program (PTRS/Safety Assurance System (SAS), as appropriate).

7. Disposition. The information in this notice has been incorporated into Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 14, Sections 1 and 2. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Commercial Operations Branch (AFS-820) at 202-267-1100.



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