

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.600

National Policy

Effective Date:
10/4/21

Cancellation Date:
10/4/22

SUBJ: Change of Responsibility for Foreign Operator Ramp Inspections and Surveillance

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice changes primary responsibility for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 129 foreign air carrier ramp inspections and other foreign operator surveillance from Air Carrier Safety Assurance (ACSA) offices and General Aviation Safety Assurance (GASA) offices to International Field Offices (IFO). This notice includes instructions for IFOs to plan ramp inspections and conduct surveillance. This notice includes instructions for ACSA and GASA offices for the disposition of currently assigned ramp inspections and explains the support role these offices will provide the IFOs.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards (FS) IFOs' and Safety Assurance offices' inspectors and managers. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.

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, the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <https://fsims.avs.faa.gov>, and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at <https://drs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices, FSIMS at <https://fsims.faa.gov>, and the DRS.

4. Background. Surveillance on 14 CFR parts 129 and 375 foreign operators has become increasingly difficult due to resources and domestic certificate management priorities in ACSA and GASA offices. The International Program Division (AFS-50) has identified a need to replace predetermined numbers and locations of ramp inspections with risk-based surveillance decisions made by the principal inspectors (PI) who have the knowledge of the operators for which they are responsible.

a. AFS-50 has determined that IFOs will become primarily responsible for conducting surveillance (e.g., ramp inspections) on all foreign operators, including parts 129 and 375 foreign operators. The IFOs' unique knowledge of parts 129 and 375 operators and their familiarity with the associated foreign operations support the IFOs being primarily responsible to conduct these surveillance activities. FS offices will support and conduct surveillance on parts 129 and 375 foreign operators upon coordinated requests from the responsible IFO.

b. AFS-50, in collaboration with the System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO) Automation and Policy Team, incorporated guidance into the following sections of FAA Order 8900.1 to address revisions to foreign operator surveillance:

- Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10, Ramp and Other Inspections for Parts 129 and 375 Foreign Operators.
- Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 11, Surveillance and Operations Specifications.
- Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 13, International Safety—Heightened Surveillance List.

5. Existing Policy. This notice addresses changes to Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10. This section currently specifies the FAA offices which have responsibility for ramp inspections for part 129 operators. This section currently specifies which offices are primarily responsible for the creation, maintenance, and inspector assignment of environmental data in the enhanced Vital Information Database (eVID). This section also specifies the aviation safety inspector (ASI) qualifications to conduct ramp inspections on part 129 operators.

6. Amended Policy.

a. Responsibility for Foreign Operator Inspections, Including Support from FS Offices. Refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10 for detailed information regarding the primary and supporting offices for inspections on foreign operators.

b. Foreign Operator Surveillance Planning and Work Program Development. Refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10 for detailed information regarding surveillance planning and work programs.

c. eVID Data. The eVID environmental files will no longer automatically trigger National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines (NPG) ramp inspection activities. Refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10 for detailed information regarding creation, maintenance, and inspector assignment of environmental data in eVID.

7. Action.

a. ACSA and GASA Offices. Within 60 days of publication of this notice, ACSA and GASA offices must accomplish or terminate any assigned NPG activities that have not yet been accomplished. ACSA and GASA offices must accomplish terminations in accordance with the current version of FAA Order 1800.56, National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines.

b. IFOs. Within 60 days of publication of this notice:

(1) IFOs will utilize Risk-Based Decision Making (RBDM) to initiate surveillance and Heightened Surveillance List (HSL) reviews and ramp inspections in accordance with Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10.

(2) IFOs will update environmental files in accordance with Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10.

8. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 4, Section 10 before this notice expires. Direct any questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the International Operations Branch (AFS-52) at 202-267-0962.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Carty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert C. Carty
Acting Executive Director, Flight Standards Service