

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.679

National Policy

Effective Date:
10/12/23

Cancellation Date:
10/12/24

SUBJ: Part 145 Repair Stations and New OpSpec D090, Coordinating Agency for Supplier Evaluation (C.A.S.E.)

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice introduces new optional operations specification (OpSpec) D090 for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 145 repair stations. This notice also introduces revised guidance for inspectors with oversight responsibility of part 145 repair stations. OpSpec D090 authorizes a certificate holder (CH) to utilize an audit performed to the Coordinating Agency for Supplier Evaluation (C.A.S.E.) 1-A Standard in support of its Quality Control System (QCS) required by part 145, § 145.211 as a means of qualifying a repair/overhaul maintenance vendor to satisfy the requirements of §§ 145.201(a)(2) and 145.205.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards Service (FS) Safety Assurance offices and principal inspectors (PI) responsible for repair stations certificated under part 145 interested in, or currently participating in, the C.A.S.E. Aeronautical Repair Station Section (ARSS) sustaining membership program. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and the 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 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 and DRS.

4. Background.

a. C.A.S.E. is a nonprofit organization composed of two separate sections: the Air Carrier Section (ACS) and Aeronautical Repair Station Section (ARSS). For many years now, the voluntary C.A.S.E. auditing program has successfully been in use by many 14 CFR parts 121 and 135 CHs. OpSpec D090 authorizes these CHs to use a C.A.S.E. audit in their Continuing Analysis and Surveillance System (CASS) and requires that C.A.S.E. activities be conducted in accordance with the current C.A.S.E. ACS Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) and the CH's manual system.

b. Currently, part 145 repair station members of C.A.S.E. ARSS are voluntarily auditing to the same common inspection standard established by C.A.S.E. ARSS and qualifying their

auditor/evaluator to those standards. The repair stations have many of the same vendors and may benefit from the C.A.S.E. ARSS audit allocation program. The use of the audit allocation program may increase quality and value while not requiring each repair station to audit every vendor. The Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) is adding OpSpec D090 to the available part 145 OpSpecs to authorize a part 145 CH, participating as an active sustaining member in the C.A.S.E. ARSS auditing program, to use a C.A.S.E. audit in its QCS required by § 145.211. Under § 145.201(a)(2), a certificated repair station (CRS) may arrange for another person to perform maintenance, preventive maintenance, and alterations of any article for which the repair station is rated.

c. If the person is not certificated under part 145, the CRS must ensure that the noncertificated person follows a QCS equivalent to the system followed by the CRS.

d. The C.A.S.E. 1-A Standard is designed specifically for certificated maintenance suppliers (domestic and foreign). The C.A.S.E. audit program is not applicable to noncertificated maintenance vendors/suppliers.

5. Guidance.

a. **OpSpec Template.** This notice contains the sample OpSpec D090 template in Appendix A, which applies to part 145.

b. **FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System.**

(1) Guidance for OpSpec D090 has been added to Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 10, Parts A, B, and D Operations Specifications for Part 145 Repair Stations.

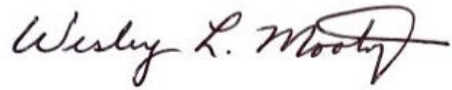
(2) The following sections have been created:

- Volume 3, Chapter 55, Section 1, Evaluating and Authorizing the Use of a C.A.S.E. Audit; and
- Volume 6, Chapter 9, Section 1, Surveillance of Part 145 Repair Stations Using a C.A.S.E. Audit in Its Quality Control System (QCS).

6. **Applicability.** As identified earlier, this optional OpSpec D090 is only applicable to part 145 repair stations that are participating in the C.A.S.E. ARSS auditing program as an active sustaining member and are seeking authorization to use a C.A.S.E. audit in their QCS.

7. **Action.** PIs with oversight responsibility for part 145 CHs should review the Order 8900.1 guidance referenced in this notice and share this notice with part 145 CHs interested in C.A.S.E. ARSS sustaining membership program participation or currently participating as associate members. Part 145 CHs must hold C.A.S.E. ARSS active sustaining membership to be issued and retain OpSpec D090. The PI issues OpSpec D090 after a satisfactory review and acceptance of the use of a C.A.S.E. audit in the CH's QCS. CH C.A.S.E. qualification requirements are described in the ARSS PPM, which is available from the CH. As part of the QCS required by § 145.211 upon issuance of OpSpec D090, the CH is authorized to utilize an audit performed to the C.A.S.E. 1-A Standard as a means of qualifying a repair/overhaul maintenance vendor/supplier to satisfy the requirements of §§ 145.201(a)(2) and 145.205.

8. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the General Aviation Group (AFS-340), Repair Station Section at 202-267-1675.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley L. Mooty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

Wesley L. Mooty
Acting Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service

**Appendix A. Sample OpSpec D090, Coordinating Agency for Supplier
Evaluation (C.A.S.E.): 14 CFR Part 145**

- a. The certificate holder is authorized to utilize an audit performed to the C.A.S.E. 1-A Standard in support of its Quality Control System (QCS) required by 14 CFR Part 145, § 145.211 as a means of qualifying a repair/overhaul maintenance vendor to satisfy the requirements of §§ 145.201(a)(2) and 145.205.
- b. The certificate holder must conduct C.A.S.E. activities in accordance with the most current revision of the C.A.S.E. Aeronautical Repair Station Section (ARSS) Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) and the certificate holder's manual system. Contents of the C.A.S.E. ARSS PPM must not conflict with 14 CFR or the certificate holder's manual system based upon its Quality Control Manual (QCM).
- c. The certificate holder retains primary responsibility for the airworthiness of parts and material processed through any vendor approved for use by the certificate holder and for services rendered to the certificate holder.
- d. Should the ARSS of C.A.S.E. cease to exist or function, or should the certificate holder cease to maintain an active sustaining membership with the C.A.S.E. ARSS, this authorization is canceled.