

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.683

National Policy

Effective Date:
11/6/23

Cancellation Date:
11/6/24

SUBJ: Revision—FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 4, Chapter 3, Airplane Performance and Airport Data

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides revised guidance to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Principal Operations Inspectors (POI), responsible Flight Standards offices, and Training Center Program Managers (TCPM) for oversight of the interpretation and use of airplane performance information and airport data to demonstrate compliance with applicable certification and operating rule requirements for departure, en route, arrival, and landing.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and certificate management office (CMO) aviation safety inspectors (ASI) responsible, under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 121, 135, and 91 subpart K (part 91K), for reviewing and approving/accepting performance data sections of Company Flight Manuals (CFM) and their system for acquiring airport data. The secondary audience includes TCPMs and Flight Standards offices who have responsibilities related to the application of airplane performance information and airport data and its related training, as well as the Safety Standards 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 FAA's website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices and DRS.
- 4. Background.** Regulatory language dealing with airplane performance certification and operating rules can be complex and has seen some recent revisions. These revisions have led to questions and potential confusion among inspectors and stakeholders. Pursuant to numerous inquiries from inspectors and operators, the Flight Technologies and Procedures Division (AFS-400) developed this notice in concert with a change to FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System, guidance regarding Airplane Performance and Airport Data. These changes were completed in coordination with the Offices of Air Carrier Safety Assurance (ACSA), General Aviation Safety Assurance (GASA), and the Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) Performance and Environment Unit (AIR-621A).
- 5. Guidance.** The guidance within Order 8900.1, Volume 4, Chapter 3, Sections 1–5 are replaced by this full chapter revision. This revision is significant, providing improved

information on the subject of airplane performance and its regulatory basis, and in the restructuring of information within this chapter. In addition, a new section (Section 3) was added to address non-turbine-engine-powered transport category airplanes and to introduce the recent changes to 14 CFR part 23 certification. In summary, this notice includes the following changes to Order 8900.1, Volume 4, Chapter 3:

a. Section 1—Airplane Performance Rules. This section contains an updated general discussion of the principles for airplane performance certification rules, operating rules, and their interrelationship.

b. Section 2—Performance Rules for Part 25 Turbine-Engine-Powered Transport Airplanes. This section contains detailed information on the rules applicable to these specific airplanes, and its contents have been changed to address the performance operating rules for turbine-engine-powered transport category airplanes only. Performance guidance for other types of airplanes has been relocated to Section 3.

c. Section 3—Performance Rules for Airplanes Not Certificated to Part 25 or the Transport Category After August 29, 1959. This new section addresses the performance operating rules for all airplanes other than those discussed in Section 2. New information includes a discussion of the new part 23 normal category certification rules and applicable operating rules.

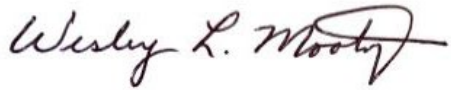
d. Section 4—Approval of Performance Data Sections of CFMs and/or Data Provided via Other Means. This revised section (formerly Section 3) more clearly addresses the increased use of third-party performance engineering providers and adds guidance on the authorization and use by operators.

e. Section 5—Airport Data Acquisition Systems. This section (formerly Section 4) contains specific direction and guidance for the review and approval/acceptance of airport data acquisition systems. This section has been updated with references to Advisory Circular (AC) 120-91, Airport Obstacle Analysis, and attributes of acceptable data sources.

f. Section 6—Selected Practices. This section (formerly Section 5) contains direction and guidance concerning specific, airplane-related performance topics. Significant additions have been made to this section, including a Takeoff and Landing Performance Assessment (TALPA) discussion and its use as a selected practice since TALPA is now applicable across airplane certification types. Additionally, new information has been added to highlight details concerning runway lengths available for takeoff and landing performance calculations, declared distances, and where to find such information.

6. Action. POIs and TCPMs should accomplish a thorough review of the updated guidance, then review their operator's or applicable training center's procedures and training program(s) to ensure they comply with the intent of this updated guidance.

7. 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 Flight Operations Group (AFS-410) at 202-267-8795.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Wesley L. Mooty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'W'.

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