

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.706

National Policy

Effective Date:
7/3/24

Cancellation Date:
7/3/25

SUBJ: Cargo Focus Team Task Completion and Discontinuation

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces the task completion and discontinuation of the Cargo Focus Team (CFT) and future technical support for Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 cargo operations.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards (FS) offices with certification and/or oversight responsibilities for cargo operations. 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 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. In 2013, FS established the CFT to provide direct support to FS office personnel on subject matter that required specialized expertise not often available to those offices. The CFT was tasked to evaluate and revise, as necessary, FS policy, guidance, and training on Weight and Balance (W&B) control and provide direct technical validation of cargo procedures.

b. In 2014, FS notified aviation safety inspectors (ASI) of a policy change to the W&B program for all part 121 operations that required the CFT to review the W&B programs, with a focus on special cargo, for all active certificate holders (CH) with part 121 operations.

5. Information. The Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) and the Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) have completed the following tasks and are discontinuing the CFT as a material group:

- Updated guidance and policy to clarify the regulatory basis between 14 CFR part 91, § 91.9 and the airplane W&B Manual (WBM), methods to change those limitations, inspector roles and responsibilities, and air carrier procedures for cargo operations.
- Collaborated with the Safety Analysis and Promotion Division (AFS-900) to revise the applicable Data Collection Tools (DCT).

- Updated FAA Course 21000056, Air Cargo Operations Practical Application Workshop (PAW).
- Created FAA Course 21000192, Intermediate Air Cargo Operations for the ASI, which has a recurrent requirement.
- Performed a Design Assessment (DA) on W&B programs to validate compliance with the airplane manufacturer's limitations, which provided a baseline for compliant cargo operations.
- Closed the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) safety recommendation created in response to the Bagram, Afghanistan accident.

6. Closeout Activities.

a. FAA Order 8900.1. AFS-300 removed CFT references from Order 8900.1. This action led to the deactivation of the National Custom DCTs (C DCT) that the CFT developed and used to focus directly on the areas of the W&B program that had potential hazards for cargo.

b. Advisory Circulars (AC). The ACs relating to cargo operations, specifically AC 120-85, Carriage of Cargo, and AC 120-121, Safety Risk Management Involving Items in Aircraft Cargo Compartments, have transferred from AFS-300 to AFS-200.

c. Office of Air Carrier Safety Assurance (ACSA). ACSA oversight and certificate management responsibilities remain unchanged. The CFT findings are documented in the Safety Assurance System (SAS) or by memorandum and given to the Certificate Management Teams (CMT) to address.

d. Technical Resources. Technical resources for cargo continue to be available. For questions relating to W&B control and/or cargo operations, contact AFS-200. For questions relating to aircraft weighing and/or the cargo loading system, contact AFS-300.

e. Final Report. AFS-200 and AFS-300 management sent a memorandum, the Misloaded Cargo Final Report, and the CFT Strategic Action Plan to FS leadership.

7. Disposition. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to AFS-200 at 202-267-8166 and 9-AFS-200-Correspondence@faa.gov or AFS-300 at 202-267-1675 and 9-AWA-AFS-300-Correspondence@faa.gov.



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