

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.766

National Policy

Effective Date:
1/26/26

Cancellation Date:
1/26/27

SUBJ: Determine Applicant Readiness for Certification

1. Purpose of This Notice. The purpose of this notice is to provide information for and assist Office Managers (OM), Front Line Managers (FLM), or office points of contact (POC) who are working with applicants applying for an Air Carrier Certificate, Operating Certificate, or Air Agency Certificate; or the issuance of management specifications (MSpecs) in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 91 subpart K (part 91K), 125, 133, 135, 137, 141, 142, 145, and 147. The scope and intent of this notice is to supplement Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Air Operator and Air Agency Certification and Application Process; and Volume 10, Chapter 12, Certification Services Oversight Process.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards (FS) Safety Assurance OMs, FLMs, or POCs with Certification Services Oversight Process (CSOP) responsibilities. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices. This notice is available to the public for information purposes only. Its content is not legally binding on the public in its own right and will not be relied upon by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Public conformity with the guidance document is voluntary only; nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations.

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. Reissuance. This notice reissues Notice N 8900.728, Determine Applicant Readiness for Certification, dated January 21, 2025.

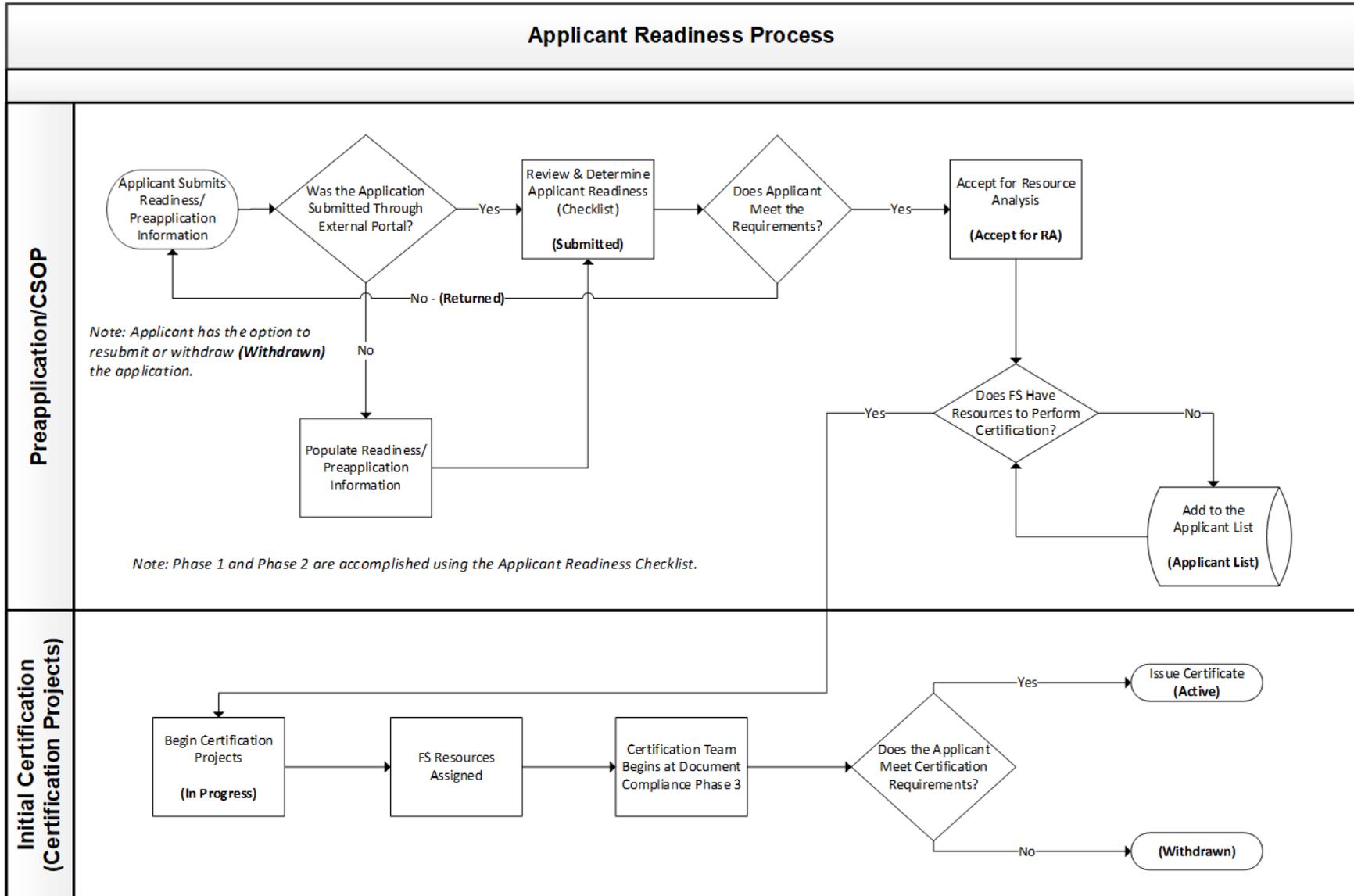
5. Background. FS offices responsible for certification use CSOP to assist in the management of certification applications. CSOP provides guidance to FS offices in accepting, sequencing, tracking, and reporting new certification applicant status. FS has seen an increased trend with applicants who are not ready to begin the initial certification process; as a result, this has increased the certification processing time and overall applicant wait time. To help reduce wait time and streamline the approach, FS has initiated a process to determine applicant readiness for certification prior to being added to the CSOP Applicant List.

6. Process. The Applicant Readiness Checklist for certification was developed as part of the process to streamline Phase 1, Preapplication, and Phase 2, Formal Application; and to ensure applicants enter the initial certification process at Phase 3, Document Compliance. It assists the OMs, FLMs, or POCs to determine an applicant's readiness and the acceptance process for an application/applicant to be added to the CSOP Applicant List.

a. Initial Inquiry. The applicant is responsible to prepare themselves for certification. If an applicant is not prepared for the certification application process, the office should direct them to the certification resources at <https://www.faa.gov> or DRS, or they should consult with other external sources. FS personnel should not be the sole providers of education to applicants on what is needed for a successful initial certification process. Furthermore, FS offices should utilize Risk-Based Decision Making (RBDM) in allocating inspector resources during this stage.

b. Determine Applicant Readiness Process. Before an applicant can be added to the CSOP Applicant List, the office must determine if the applicant has submitted items and is ready to begin the initial certification process by using the applicable Applicant Readiness Checklist found in Appendix A.

Figure 1. Applicant Readiness Process



(1) If the preapplication information is received through email, then office personnel will populate the information in the Preapplications tab of the Safety Assurance System (SAS), attach the checklist items, and submit the application (Submitted). If the preapplication information is received through the external portal, it will be received in “Submitted” status (Submitted).

(2) Office personnel will review the preapplication information and determine applicant readiness based on the applicable checklist in Appendix A.

Note: Phases 1 and 2 of the certification process are completed with this step.

(3) If the preapplication information does not meet the requirements of the Applicant Readiness Checklist, then list the requirements the applicant did not meet, document the number of returns (e.g., first return or second return) in the Remarks section, and select “Return” (Returned). This data will provide a historical reference based on the applicant’s readiness and the number of attempts to meet the requirements of the checklist. Additionally, if the preapplication information was submitted through email and does not meet the requirements of the Applicant Readiness Checklist, then list the requirements the applicant did not meet in the checklist and email this information to the applicant. If, after 15 days from the “Return” notification, the applicant has not responded or submitted items, withdraw them from applicable areas within SAS.

Note: The applicant may correct and resubmit or withdraw their application. Applications in “Returned” status can be edited, resubmitted, or withdrawn by external portal users or office personnel.

(4) If the applicant has met all requirements, accept the application (Accept for RA), perform certification resource analysis, and add to the Applicant List to await FS resources (Applicant List). This data shows the applicant has met the requirements of the checklist and is ready to begin certification.

Note: The certification process begins with Phase 3.

7. Office Actions for Existing Applicants. Existing applicants in SAS can be in the following statuses: “Applicant List,” “Accept for RA,” or “Submitted.”

a. For applications submitted prior to October 1, 2022, each office will contact and provide the Applicant Readiness Checklist to applicants associated with their office within 30 days of the publication of this notice. For all other existing applicants, each office will contact and provide the Applicant Readiness Checklist to applicants associated with their office within 90 days of the publication of this notice. Applicants will have 30 days from notification to submit items on the checklist and inform the office of their intent to remain on or continue to the Applicant List. The FS offices may have discretion on this timeframe based upon the applicant’s responsiveness.

(1) For applicants on the Applicant List, update the last official notification date, enter any pertinent information in the Applicant List Comments section, and attach correspondence on the Preapplication Information/CSOP Applicant List page.

(2) For applicants in “Accept for RA” status, enter any pertinent information in the Comments section and attach correspondence on the Preapplication Information/CSOP Resource Analysis page.

(3) For applicants in “Submitted” status, follow subparagraph 6b(3) or 6b(4), as appropriate.

b. For applicants that have submitted checklist items and who intend to remain on or continue to the Applicant List, office personnel will update the last official notification date, enter detailed comments regarding the applicant’s readiness, and attach the Applicant Readiness Checklist and all submitted documents on the Preapplication Information/CSOP Applicant List page.

c. If, after 30 days from notification, the applicant has not responded or submitted checklist items, withdraw them from applicable areas within SAS, such as the Applicant List. Ensure detailed justification comments are entered for all withdrawn applications.

d. Applicants withdrawn in SAS under this process may resubmit an application for certification and will be required to go through this new process to be placed on the Applicant List. Their original place on the Applicant List will be forfeited and readjusted based on the new date of acceptance.

Note: During initial certification, members of the certification team and FS personnel should encourage applicants to be prepared. Refer applicants to existing agency policy, guidance, and regulations pertaining to certification (e.g., regulations that specify required contents of a manual).

8. Disposition. Some of the information in this notice will be incorporated into Order 8900.1, Volume 10, Safety Assurance System Policy and Procedures, and other applicable policy before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the Safety Management, Analytics, and System Integration Division (AFS-900) at 9-AVS-AFS900-Directives@faa.gov.



Hugh Thomas
Acting Executive Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. Applicant Readiness Checklist**Table A-1. Title 14 CFR Part 91 Subpart K (Part 91K) Fractional Ownership**

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Statement of intent			FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 5, Section 2, Phase 1—Preapplication
Proposed Schedule of Events (SOE)			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Fractional ownership program or business plan is complete			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 5, Section 2
Management specifications (MSpecs) requested			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 5, Section 2; and Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2, Operations Safety System 14 CFR § 91.1015
Signed acknowledgment of operational control responsibilities			14 CFR § 91.1013 Included in the program management services contract.
Program Operating Manual (POM)			14 CFR § 91.1025
Internal safety reporting and incident/accident response procedures			14 CFR § 91.1021
Cockpit checklist (normal, abnormal, emergency)			14 CFR § 91.1033
Passenger briefing cards			14 CFR § 91.1035
Hazardous materials (hazmat) recognition program			14 CFR § 91.1085

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Pilot safety background checks and procedures			14 CFR § 111.105 14 CFR § 111.135 FAA Order 8000.88, PRIA and PRD Guidance for FAA Inspectors
Drug and alcohol misuse education program			14 CFR § 91.1047
List of owners and associated aircraft			14 CFR § 91.1027
Destination Airport Analysis Program (DAAP)			14 CFR § 91.1037
Proving and/or validation test plan, if applicable			14 CFR § 91.1041
Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program (CAMP), if required			14 CFR § 91.1411

Table A-2. Title 14 CFR Part 125 Operators

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Form FAA 8400-6, Preapplication Statement of Intent			14 CFR § 125.21
Management personnel qualifications			14 CFR § 125.25
Formal Application Letter			
Initial Compliance Statement			
Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM)			14 CFR § 125.71
List of requested operations specifications (OpSpecs)			
Leases, agreements, and contracts, as appropriate, for any required facility, service, aircraft, and equipment			If documentation is unavailable, the intentions should be annotated on the Schedule of Events (SOE).
Deviation requests or authorities granted			14 CFR § 125.3
Proposed SOE			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Hazardous materials (hazmat) procedures and instructions			14 CFR § 125.73
Weight and Balance (W&B) procedures			FAA-H-8083-1, Aircraft Weight and Balance Handbook

Table A-3. Title 14 CFR Part 133 Rotorcraft External-Load Operations

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Dat e	Reference/Remarks
Form FAA 8710-4, Rotorcraft External- Load Operator Certificate Application			
Documentation that the applicant has the services available of at least one person that holds a current Commercial Pilot or Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Certificate with rating for the rotorcraft prescribed in 14 CFR § 133.19 issued by the Administrator			14 CFR § 133.21
If applicable, instrument flight rules (IFR) The applicant has documentation that pilot(s) meet instrument qualifications and currency, and the aircraft is equipped for IFR			14 CFR § 61.3(e) 14 CFR § 61.51(g)(3) 14 CFR § 61.57(c) and (d) 14 CFR § 91.205 14 CFR § 133.33
Letter of nomination for designation of Chief Pilot			14 CFR § 133.21 May be the applicant.
Letter or lease agreement for the use of at least one rotorcraft			14 CFR § 133.19
Copy of proposed Rotorcraft-Load Combination Flight Manual (RLCFM)			14 CFR § 133.47

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Dat e	Reference/Remarks
If applicable, Class D training program, including initial and recurrent			14 CFR § 133.37
If applicable, hazmat training program			49 CFR parts 100 through 185 Note: Emphasis on 49 CFR parts 171, 172, and 175.

Table A-4. Title 14 CFR Part 135 Operators

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Title 14 CFR Part 135—Single Pilot or Single Pilot in Command (PIC) (as Applicable)			
Form FAA 8400-6, Preapplication Statement of Intent			
Compliance statement: sized and scoped for intended operations			FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 4, Section 1, Phase 1—Preapplication
Documentation of the organization’s Safety Management System (SMS)			14 CFR § 5.95 Note: While 14 CFR § 135.21(a) does not require a manual setting forth the certificate holder’s (CH) procedures and policies, SMS should be documented within the compliance statement, integrated into other manuals, or a stand-alone document.
List of proposed operations specifications (OpSpecs) with procedures, if applicable			Form FAA 8400-6, Section 1E, No. 10
Category and class of aircraft to be used (type not necessary) representative of aircraft to be used in proposed certification. If available, list aircraft by number, type, registration, and make, model, and series (M/M/S) expected to be used			Form FAA 8400-6, Section 1D, No. 8 (i.e., single engine, multiengine, turboprop, jet, above 12,500, visual flight rules (VFR) only, rotorcraft) If the applicant is using an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), contact the Emerging Technologies Division (AFS-700) for any additional checklist items needed before adding to the Applicant List.
Intent of will or will not carry of hazardous materials (hazmat)			Form FAA 8400-6, Section 1E, No. 10
Hazmat training manual			14 CFR § 135.23(p)

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Flight locating procedures			14 CFR § 135.79
Ground deicing procedures			14 CFR § 135.227
Formal Application Letter			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 4, Section 1
Proposed Schedule of Events (SOE)			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Named pilot résumé			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 4, Section 6, Single-Pilot, Single Pilot-in-Command, and Basic Part 135 Operations
Copy of pilot and medical certificate(s)			
Corporation papers: legal business name			
Sample aircraft discrepancy log			
Sample pilot record			
Sample flight and duty log			
Title 14 CFR Part 135—Nine or Less Basic or Full (in Addition to Single Pilot or Single PIC)			
Deviation or exemption requests, if required			
General Operations Manual (GOM)			14 CFR § 135.21 14 CFR § 135.23
Training manual			

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Management résumés: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Operations • Director of Maintenance • Chief Pilot 			
Copy of pilot and medical certificates for Director of Operations and Chief Pilot			
Approved Aircraft Inspection Program (AAIP), if required			14 CFR § 135.419
Title 14 CFR Part 135—Ten or More (in Addition to Single Pilot or Single PIC and Nine or Less Basic or Full)			
Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program (CAMP)			
General Maintenance Manual (GMM)			14 CFR § 135.427

Table A-5. Title 14 CFR Part 137 Agricultural Aircraft Operations (Excluding Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS))

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Private or Commercial			
Letter of Intent			FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 1, The Certification Process of a Part 137 Operator
Form FAA 8710-3, Agricultural Aircraft Operator Certificate Application			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 8, Section 1
Private applicant: Private Pilot, Commercial Pilot, or Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Certificate Commercial applicant: services of person that holds a Commercial Pilot or ATP Certificate rated for aircraft to be used			14 CFR § 137.19
Proof of availability of at least one aircraft properly certificated, airworthy and equipped for operation			14 CFR § 137.19
Proof of applicant's knowledge and skills or have services of a chief supervisor with knowledge and skills for aircraft used			14 CFR § 137.19
Commercial only: recordkeeping system/sample form			14 CFR § 137.71

Table A-6. Title 14 CFR Part 141 Pilot Schools

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Letter of Intent			FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 9, Section 1, Safety Assurance System: Initial Certification or Renewal of a Part 141 Pilot School
Safety practices and procedures (manuals)			14 CFR § 141.53
Form FAA 8420-8, Application for Pilot School Certification			14 CFR § 141.13
Training course outlines (TCO)/syllabi			14 CFR § 141.53
Résumé for chief instructor			14 CFR § 141.35
Résumé for assistant chief instructor (optional)			14 CFR § 141.36

Table A-7. Title 14 CFR Part 142 Training Centers

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Letter of Application with corporate/business name (including doing business as (DBA) name), mailing address, telephone number, and email address Signature(s) per FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 10, Section 1, Certification of Part 142 Training Centers and the Addition of Satellite Facilities			Order 8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 10, Section 1
Proposed Schedule of Events (SOE) to include the Training and Simulation Group (AFS-280) evaluation			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Proposed training curriculum/course			Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 54, Section 6, Part 142 Training Centers: Evaluate Training Programs, Curricula, Flight Training Equipment, and Recordkeeping Requirements 14 CFR §§ 142.37/142.39
Location of the training center and any proposed satellite centers			Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 54, Section 6 14 CFR §§ 142.15/142.17
Training records			Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 54, Section 6 14 CFR § 142.73
Proposed instructor and evaluator training program			Including curriculum, courseware, procedures, and any other supporting documentation.

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Proposed evaluation authorization(s)			
Proposed core and specialty training curriculums			Including associated syllabi, including courseware, procedures, checklists, and any other supporting documentation for the training of students, instructors, and evaluators.
Company policy manual(s)			
Indicate whether company employs or proposes to employ any person described in 14 CFR § 142.11(e)(2)(i), (ii), or (iii)			
Description of a recordkeeping system			
If intent is to provide training for a certificate or rating in fewer than the minimum hours prescribed in 14 CFR part 61, a method of demonstrating qualification and ability to provide training			
Description of Quality Control (QC) program			
Proposed training agreements			
Deviation and waiver requests, if applicable			
Compliance statement			

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
<p>A copy of a purchase contract or adequate lease of flight training equipment that is available for exclusive use, for adequate periods of time</p> <p>*Must be able to show this within 45 days of certification process start</p>			<p>Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 54, Section 6</p> <p>14 CFR § 142.59</p> <p>Certification of a training center under 14 CFR part 142 requires the use of at least one full flight simulator (FFS) or Level 6 or 7 flight training device (FTD). An application that proposes to conduct training, testing, and checking using aircraft only will not be accepted.</p>
<p>Description of the applicant’s training facilities, equipment, and qualifications of personnel to be used</p> <p>*Must be able to show this within 45 days of certification process start</p>			
<p>Management qualifications stated in specific terms</p> <p>*Must be able to show this within 45 days of certification process start</p>			

Table A-8. Title 14 CFR Part 145 Repair Stations

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Form FAA 8400-6, Preapplication Statement of Intent			
Description of housing, facilities, and proposed personnel numbers, if available			Form FAA 8400-6, Section 1E, No. 10 14 CFR § 145.103 If unavailable, annotate the intentions on the Schedule of Events (SOE).
Stated intent for hazardous materials (hazmat) employer, as defined under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) § 171.8			Form FAA 8400-6, Section 1E, No. 10 14 CFR § 145.53(c)
Repair Station Manual (RSM)			14 CFR § 145.207
Quality Control Manual (QCM)			14 CFR § 145.211(c)
Training program manual			14 CFR § 145.163
Forms manual (if not included in any other manual)			14 CFR § 145.211(c)(3)
A list by type and make and model (M/M), as appropriate, of each article for which application is made			14 CFR § 145.51(a)(3)
List of contract maintenance functions			14 CFR § 145.217
Form FAA 8310-3, Application for Repair Station Certificate and/or Rating			

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Proposed SOE			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Capability list (CL), if applicable			14 CFR § 145.215
Letter(s) of recommendation and applications for any proposed repairman (Form FAA 8610-3, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application – Repairman)			
Limited ratings: process specifications, if applicable			14 CFR § 145.61(c)

Table A-9. Title 14 CFR Part 147 Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools (AMTS)

Item	Received/ Submitted (Y, N, N/A)	Verified by Initials/Date	Reference/Remarks
Form FAA 8400-6, Preapplication Statement of Intent			
Form FAA 8310-6, Aviation Maintenance Technician School Certificate and Ratings Application			14 CFR § 147.5
Proposed Schedule of Events (SOE)			The SOE must include a timeline based on calendar days (e.g., 30 days) as opposed to actual dates for the acquisition of facilities, aircraft leases, and equipment after initial certification begins.
Letter of compliance (optional)			
Description of facilities			14 CFR § 147.5(b)(1)
Description of equipment and materials used			14 CFR § 147.5(b)(1)
Description of curriculum basis			14 CFR § 147.5(b)(2)
Description of instructor requirements			14 CFR § 147.5(b)(3) 14 CFR § 147.19
Curriculum			14 CFR § 147.17(a)(1)
Evidence of accreditation, if applicable			14 CFR § 147.23(a)(1)
AMTS Quality Control System (QCS), if applicable			14 CFR § 147.23
Exemption requests or authorities granted, if applicable			