

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.734

National Policy

Effective Date:
5/14/25

Cancellation Date:
5/14/26

SUBJ: OpSpec A008, IASA Category 2 Operational Restrictions, Operational Control, Aeronautical Weather, and Airport Aeronautical Data

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who issue operations specifications (OpSpecs) under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 129 to foreign air carrier(s) serving the United States, whose State of the Operator (country) of the foreign air carrier was assessed under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Program as Category (CAT) 2. This notice describes an update to 14 CFR part 129 OpSpec A008 that incorporates and decommissions OpSpec C083, IASA Category 2 Special Operational Restrictions—Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Operations, Additional Aircraft and Special Authorizations.

Note: This is a guidance document. Its content is not legally binding in its own right and will not be relied upon by the Department as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Conformity with the guidance document is voluntary only. Nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards Safety Assurance offices' ASIs who issue 14 CFR part 129 OpSpecs. 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 FAA's website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices and DRS.

4. Explanation of Changes. The International Program Division (AFS-50) has revised 14 CFR part 129 OpSpec A008 as follows:

- Renamed OpSpec A008 to "IASA Category 2 Operational Restrictions, Operational Control, Aeronautical Weather, and Airport Aeronautical Data"; and
- Added subparagraphs a through e (the "Operational Restrictions" subparagraphs from decommissioned OpSpec C083).

5. Guidance. This notice contains the sample OpSpec A008 template in Appendix A for OpSpecs issued under 14 CFR part 129.

Note: Additional information on the FAA's IASA Program, including a country's IASA Category, is found on the FAA website at <https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/iasa>. For FAA policy information, refer to FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 12, Chapter 2, Section 1, International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Program.

6. Action.

a. Actions for ASIs with Foreign Air Carriers Already Issued OpSpec A008 or C083. ASIs with responsibility for 14 CFR part 129 foreign air carrier(s) must review the information in this notice. If a foreign air carrier operating to the United States under 14 CFR part 129 from an IASA CAT 2 State of the Operator has already issued OpSpec A008 or C083, before this notice expires the responsible ASI must:

- Reissue OpSpec A008,
- Archive OpSpec C083 (if previously issued), and
- Reissue OpSpec A004, Summary of Special Authorizations, Limitations and Restrictions.

b. Actions for ASIs with Foreign Air Carriers Not Yet Issued OpSpec A008 or C083. If a foreign air carrier operating to the United States under 14 CFR part 129 from an IASA CAT 2 State of the Operator has not yet issued OpSpec A008 or C083, the responsible ASI must:

- Issue OpSpec A008, and
- Reissue OpSpec A004.

7. Disposition. We have incorporated the information in this notice into Order 8900.1. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to AFS-50 at 9-awa-avs-afs-050@faa.gov.



Robert Reckert for
Lawrence Fields
Executive Director, Flight Standards Service

**Appendix A. Sample OpSpec A008, IASA Category 2 Operational Restrictions,
Operational Control, Aeronautical Weather, and Airport Aeronautical Data:
14 CFR Part 129**

a. This operations specification is issued to the foreign air carrier after the State of the Operator (country) of the foreign air carrier was assessed under the International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Program as IASA Category 2. The restrictions in this operations specification apply only to operations conducted by the foreign air carrier to which it is issued. These restrictions do not apply to operations conducted by another carrier from an IASA Category 1 country under the terms of a wet lease agreement authorized in accordance with operations specification A028.

b. Scheduled Operations. The foreign air carrier is only authorized to conduct scheduled operations to and from the United States as listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Scheduled Operations—Routing and Frequency Authorized

Routing, Including Cities and ICAO Airport ID(s)	Frequency

c. Nonscheduled Operations. The foreign air carrier's nonscheduled operations to and from the United States are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Nonscheduled Operations

United States Geographic Areas	Number of Flight Segments

d. Additional Aircraft and Special Authorizations. On or after the date the State of the Operator for the foreign air carrier was determined to be IASA Category 2, no additional aircraft (including substitution of aircraft) or special authorizations (such as Category (CAT) II/III, instrument landing system (ILS)/precision runway monitor (PRM), land-and-hold-short operations (LAHSO), Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM), etc.) that require approval, acceptance, or authorization by the State of the Operator's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) may be added by the responsible aviation safety inspector (ASI) to these operations specifications, except as follows:

(1) Through the issuance of operations specification A028, authorizing the foreign air carrier to conduct operations under a wet lease agreement with a duly authorized and properly supervised U.S. carrier (lessor), or a foreign air carrier (lessor) from an IASA Category 1 country authorized to serve the United States, using the lessor's aircraft and crewmembers required for aircraft operation; or

(2) With the written approval of the International Program Division (AFS-50) division manager. (AFS-50 will only approve aircraft of the same make, model, and series (M/M/S) and configuration of aircraft, typically for inspection, maintenance, or alterations. The foreign air

carrier should submit sufficient documentation to the responsible ASI so the ASI is able to evaluate whether the request is in the interest of safety.)

e. Frequency/Flight Segment Considerations. The following limitations and provisions apply:

(1) Overflights of the United States are not counted against the frequency authorized.

(2) Scheduled stops for non-traffic purposes as defined in 14 CFR Part 375, § 375.1 are not counted against the frequency authorized.

(3) Unplanned stops in the United States in case of emergency relating to the safety of the aircraft, passengers, cargo, or crew are not counted against the frequency authorized.

[Select the following subparagraph, if applicable.]

☐ (4) For nonscheduled operations as authorized in subparagraph c above:

(a) A flight segment is a single operation between a foreign city and a U.S. city, or between two U.S. cities. A roundtrip operation between a U.S. and foreign city or an operation from a foreign city to a U.S. city and then to another foreign city counts as two flight segments.

(b) Ferry/positioning between a foreign airport and a U.S. airport where passengers, cargo, or mail are disembarked or embarked, or between a U.S. airport where passengers, cargo, or mail are disembarked or embarked and another U.S. airport where passengers, cargo, or mail are disembarked or embarked, must be counted by the responsible ASI towards the number of flight segments authorized.

f. Operational Control, Aeronautical Weather, and Airport Aeronautical Data. The foreign air carrier's system to manage operational control, aeronautical weather data, and the airport aeronautical data system described below will be in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 6 (as amended) and has been accepted or approved by the foreign air carrier's State CAA.

(1) Operational Control

[Text Box]

(2) Aeronautical Weather Data

[Text Box]

(3) Airport Aeronautical Data System

[Text Box]