

ORDER

4040.24

12/22/93

Initiated

By: AFS-1

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FAA AIRCRAFT

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes FAA policy and procedures for assuring that FAA aircraft are operated at the highest levels of safety.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to division level in Washington headquarters, regions, and centers; to the branch level in Flight Standards Service, the Office of Aviation System Standards, the Aircraft Certification Service, and the FAA Academy; to division level at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, the FAA Technical Center; to branch level in the FAA Technical Center R&D Aircraft and Range Facilities Division; to all Flight Standards and Aircraft Certification field offices; and all Flight Inspection Area Offices and International Flight Inspection Offices.

3. BACKGROUND. The FAA has statutory responsibility for prescribing standards, rules, and regulations and the responsibility for issuing air carrier certificates. In addition, the FAA has statutory responsibility to maintain a safe, common system for the use of airspace and the operation of aircraft. To effect a safe transportation system, the FAA operates a fleet of specifically equipped aircraft. The Director, Flight Standards Service, AFS-1, is responsible for the certification and surveillance of air carrier and commercial operators, which includes the approval and surveillance of aircraft maintenance programs and airman training programs that comply with air carrier regulatory requirements. The Director of Aviation System Standards, AVN-1, is responsible for the management and operation of FAA aircraft.

4. CERTIFICATION, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE OF FAA AIRCRAFT. The Director of Aviation System Standards shall ensure that the FAA aircraft program is "certificated" and operated, and the aircraft maintained in accordance with air carrier regulations that would be applicable if the "FAA aircraft program" were an air carrier. Exemptions and deviations from regulatory requirements will be approved by the Director, Flight Standards Service.

a. Policies and procedures developed in accordance with regulatory requirements shall be submitted by AVN to the assigned Flight Standards certificate holding district office (CHDO) for approval/acceptance prior to implementation. Appropriate guidance for operating at the highest standards of safety will be provided by the CHDO.

b. The Director, Flight Standards Service, is responsible for providing a surveillance and inspection program equal to that of an equivalent air carrier operation.

c. The Director of Aviation System Standards is responsible for appropriate corrective action when program deficiencies and potential areas of noncompliance are identified through the inspection and surveillance program.

/s/ David R. Hinson  
Administrator