

**ORDER**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

8000.45C

4/23/86

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION NATIONAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

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1. PURPOSE. The National Resource Specialist (NRS) Program is established to assure continued FAA technical competence in the aircraft certification programs. This order assigns responsibilities for the NRS Program and provides related procedural guidance. The provisions of other agency regulations and directives must be considered where other organizations are concerned.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the director level in Washington, except to the branch level in the Associate Administrator for Human Resource Management and in the Offices of Airworthiness, Program and Regulations Management, Flight Standards, Accounting, and Budget; to the division level in the Aviation Standards National Field Office, and in the Office of Civil Aviation Security, Aviation Medicine, Aviation Safety, and Personnel and Technical Training; to the division level in the regions and centers, except to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards Divisions, and to the section level in the regional Aircraft Certification Divisions; and to all Aircraft Certification Offices and Manufacturing Inspection District/Satellite Offices.
3. CANCELLATION. Order 8000.45B, Aircraft Certification National Resource Specialists, dated January 27, 1983, is canceled.
4. BACKGROUND. The rapid technological advances being made in the aircraft industry make it essential for FAA to have a number of professional aerospace engineers, electronics engineers, computer software specialists, engineering flight test pilots, manufacturing, and airworthiness inspectors who have developed highly specialized, state-of-the-art knowledge and skills in particular technical disciplines; e.g., aeroelasticity, advanced materials, engine design, metallurgy, advanced navigation systems, transport airplane flight management, etc. While the need for personnel possessing these skills exists in the Washington headquarters and in the directorates, constraints on the numbers of positions available for this purpose and the limited numbers of individuals available to the FAA having the required specialized training, experience, and recognized expertise preclude the assignment of such experts to staff all locations. Therefore, an FAA cadre of technical experts is established for national utilization in the development and application of regulatory policies and practices. Persons so selected and identified shall be known as "National Resource Specialists." These specialists are placed under the operational control of the Office of Airworthiness in Washington headquarters.

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Distribution: A-W-1 (minus HR/WS/PR/FS/AA/BU/VN/CS/AM/SF/PT); Initiated B. AWS-100  
A-W(HR/WS/PR/FS/AA/BU)-3; A-W(VN/CS/AM/SF/PT)-2; A-X-2(minus FS/CD);  
A-YZ-2; A-X(FS)-3; A-X(CD)-4; A-FAC-0(MAX)

5. EXPLANATION OF CHANGES.

a. This order is revised to reflect the transfer of direct supervision and control of the NRS's from the aircraft certification directorates to Washington headquarters.

b. Editorial and format changes have been made to organize the paragraphs better for clarity, and paragraphs have been renumbered or retitled.

6. AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THIS ORDER. The Director of Airworthiness is authorized to issue changes to this order provided the revisions do not involve changes in policy, delegation of authority, or assignment of responsibility.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Office of Airworthiness plans, directs, and controls the activities of the NRS Program. The NRS positions will be funded and paid by the Office of Airworthiness.

(1) The Director of Airworthiness shall:

(a) Determine the responsibilities and functions for the NRS Program in accordance with established goals; and

(b) Have overall supervision responsibility and supervise the annual evaluations with input from the Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division.

(2) The Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division may be delegated the following by the Director of Airworthiness to:

(a) Serve as the national focal point for all matters pertaining to the functions and responsibilities for the NRS Program;

(b) Supervise the NRS's administratively, make technical work assignments, and resolve any conflicts which may occur; and

(c) Prepare the annual performance evaluations—using performance standards developed between the Manager and the specialist. The performance standards will be based on performance objectives established for the specialist's area of expertise. Input will be obtained from appropriate directorate management concerning first-hand knowledge of the specialist's on-the-job performance.

b. Aircraft Certification Directorates shall domicile the NRS (AWS representative) and be responsible for furnishing the following:

- (1) Use and occupancy of specified space to establish a Washington Field Office. The space will include electric power, heat, air conditioning, utility outlets as currently exist, and furniture (desk, chair, files—which will remain the assigned office's property);
- (2) Conference room and other special space to be shared with existing tenants;
- (3) Telephone equipment and services support, including access to FTS;
- (4) Administrative supplies, clerical support, typing, filing, stenographic, and recordkeeping services. It is anticipated that 20 hours per week will be required; and
- (5) Other services to be provided in accordance with existing local procedures (including parking, legal expertise, employment information, computer facilities, etc.).

c. National Resource Specialists shall:

- (1) Maintain close and continuous contact with representatives of the aviation industry, professional societies, academic and research institutions, specialists in other Federal agencies including the military establishment, and foreign airworthiness authorities to maintain and develop their specialized professional knowledge and skills;
- (2) Serve as special technical advisors to the aircraft certification directorates in the performance of their certification functions;
- (3) Serve as special technical advisors to regional Type Certification Boards, Airworthiness Directive Boards, Maintenance Review Boards, and Flight Operations Evaluation Board chairpersons, and on Special Certification Review teams, when requested;
- (4) Serve as special technical advisors to Washington headquarters officials;
- (5) Represent the FAA in national and international activities requiring utilization of the technical knowledge and skills of the specialists;
- (6) Participate as technical advisors in the development of FAA type certification regulations and standards, national policy (for issuance by the Administrator), and national directives or advisory circulars to provide procedures and practices in highly specialized technical areas;

(7) Participate in or lead such activities as seminars or symposiums and develop training courses designed to enhance the state-of-the-art knowledge of FAA certification engineers, pilots, and inspectors; and

(8) Perform other technical functions as assigned.

#### 8. WORK ASSIGNMENTS.

a. The directorate staff and aircraft certification office personnel may contact the NRS directly for assistance. The NRS will determine the priority of his/her requested work assignments.

b. Conflicts on work assignments for the NRS will be resolved by the Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division after consultation with the official(s) requesting assignment of the specialist.

9. TRAVEL COSTS. All travel and per diem expenses incurred by the NRS's while performing their functions will be budgeted and allocated in Washington headquarters by the Office of Airworthiness. Travel orders, advances, and vouchers for the NRS's will be submitted to the Aircraft Engineering Division (AWS-100) for administrative review and approval. Travel advances and vouchers will be audited and processed by the Accounting Operations Division (AAA-200).

10. TRAINING. The Office of Airworthiness is responsible for programming training, scheduling training quotas, and funding the training costs to include travel and per diem.

#### 11. APPOINTMENT AND PLACEMENT OF SPECIALISTS.

a. The Director of Airworthiness shall, in consultation with the aircraft certification directorates, determine the kinds and numbers of NRS's needed. The Director of Airworthiness is authorized to make adjustments to these determinations from time to time, within national budget constraints, as may be necessary for the FAA to keep abreast of current and future technical specialist staffing requirements.

b. Criteria for the application of the qualification requirements, position descriptions, and proposed performance standards shall be developed by the Office of Airworthiness. The NRS position descriptions shall be certified and classified in Washington headquarters.

c. The NRS positions shall be announced for nationwide competition; and the Director of Airworthiness shall be the selecting official. Selections shall be made only after consultation with the Director of the aircraft certification directorate (or his/her designee) in which the selectee will be located.

d. The best qualified candidates with required training and experience will be selected. Emphasis will be placed on the latest skills and expertise to bear on the critical technical area being served.

e. Selected candidates will normally be located in an office of the aircraft certification directorates. All exceptions will require the approval of the Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards. If a specific office placement is considered necessary for optimum utilization (e.g., placement in a directorate near a particular industry activity), that location will be stated in the announcement. Candidates selected from Washington headquarters, the Aeronautical Center, Technical Center, or out of agency will be placed in a position and office mutually acceptable to the Director of Airworthiness and the appropriate aircraft certification directorate.

f. The NRS positions are covered under the Performance Management and Recognition System as management officials and will be responsible to the Director of Airworthiness for all technical efforts within their areas of expertise.

g. The NRS positions are allocated to Washington headquarters. Vacated positions will be reassessed by Washington headquarters for need, announcement, and selection by the Director of Airworthiness in accordance with the procedures of paragraphs 11c, d, and e.

12. WORKING RELATIONSHIPS. The NRS Program provides the NRS with a unique opportunity and working relationship to achieve uniformity between the aircraft certification directorates in procedures, application of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and a better understanding of the agency's technical positions. The working relationship with the NRS's is clearly defined in Order 8100.5, Aircraft Certification Directorate Procedures.

a. National Resource Specialists should work with the directorates toward improving the agency's technical position in their specialty areas; however, the NRS's should coordinate with the directorate staffs, when necessary, to assure that the technical advice and guidance are consistent with established guidance issued by that directorate.

b. Aircraft Certification Directorates should consult with and use the NRS's technical expertise in the formulation of guidance, and precedent-setting criteria in their specialty areas where guidance does not already exist.

13. IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIALISTS.

a. A list of the NRS's is provided in Appendix 1 to this order. The names, locations, office telephone numbers, and the technical field of specialization are shown for each individual selected and designated as an NRS.

b. The Director of Airworthiness is responsible for maintaining the list of NRS's as may be required to assure its currency.

  
Donald D. Engen  
Administrator