



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**ORDER  
8000.373B**

National Policy

Effective date:  
04/22/2021

**SUBJ:** Federal Aviation Administration Compliance Program

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**1. Purpose of This Order.** This order sets forth the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Compliance Program as the overarching guidance for implementing the FAA's strategic safety oversight approach to meet the challenges of today's rapidly changing aerospace system. This order also establishes the means by which the FAA will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Compliance Program.

**2. Audience.** This order applies to the compliance and enforcement programs and activities of all FAA offices that have regulatory responsibilities. These offices include the Flight Standards Service, Aircraft Certification Service, Office of Aerospace Medicine, Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service, Office of Airports, Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety, and Office of Commercial Space Transportation.

**3. Where Can I Find This Order.** You can find this order on the MyFAA Employee website: [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/). This order is available to the public at [http://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/orders\\_notices/](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/).

**4. Compliance Program.**

**a.** The FAA establishes regulatory standards to ensure safe operations in the National Airspace System (NAS). The FAA's safety system is largely based on, and dependent upon, voluntary compliance with these regulatory standards.

**b.** The aviation and aerospace communities have a statutory obligation to comply with established regulatory standards. This obligation includes a duty to develop and use processes and procedures that will prevent deviation from regulatory standards.

**c.** To promote the highest level of safety and compliance with regulatory standards, the FAA is implementing Safety Management System constructs based on comprehensive safety data sharing between the FAA and the aviation community. To foster this open and transparent exchange of data, the FAA believes that its Compliance Program, supported by an established safety culture, is instrumental in ensuring both compliance with regulations and the identification of hazards and management of risk.

**d.** When deviations from regulatory standards do occur, the FAA's goal is to use the most effective means to return an individual or entity that holds an FAA certificate, approval, authorization, permit, or license to full compliance and to prevent recurrence.

e. The FAA recognizes that some deviations arise from factors such as flawed procedures, simple mistakes, lack of understanding, or diminished skills. The Agency believes that deviations of this nature can most effectively be corrected through root cause analysis and training, education, or other appropriate improvements to procedures or training programs for regulated entities, which are documented and verified to ensure effectiveness. However, reluctance or failure in adopting these methods to remediate deviations or instances of repeated deviations might result in enforcement.

f. The FAA views those intentional or reckless deviations from regulatory standards, as defined in the Agency's safety oversight guidance, or deviations from regulatory standards that otherwise present an unacceptable risk to safety, as posing the highest risk to safe operation of the NAS and, thus, requiring strong enforcement.

g. Matters involving competence or qualification of certificate, license, or permit holders will be addressed with appropriate remedial measures, which might include retraining or enforcement.

h. Regulatory violations involving law enforcement-related activities may be addressed with enforcement. In addition, legal enforcement will be taken when required by law.

##### **5. Executive Council and Steering Committee for Oversight of the Compliance Program.**

The FAA will appoint an Executive Council and a Steering Committee to monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Compliance Program. The Executive Council and the Steering Committee will include representatives from all program offices with regulatory responsibility, as well as the Office of the Chief Counsel.

a. Executive Council. The Executive Council will be chaired by a person appointed by the FAA Administrator and will provide oversight of the Steering Committee. The Chair will annually report findings relevant to the Compliance Program to the Administrator. The report will include any trends in noncompliance by persons subject to the Compliance Program, FAA deficiencies with the continued implementation of the Compliance Program, and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Compliance Program in achieving the highest levels of aviation safety.

b. Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will identify, collect, analyze, and monitor data relating to the use of the Compliance Program across all relevant program offices. The Steering Committee will provide the Executive Council with information necessary to carry out the functions described in paragraph 5.a., to include recommendations pertaining to the functioning, operation, and effectiveness of the Compliance Program.



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Administrator