



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
National Policy

Order
8000.51A

Effective Date:

10/10/2007

SUBJ: Aircraft Certification Directorates' Delegation Of Authority

- 1. Purpose of this Order.** This order grants certain authority to the four aircraft certification directorates (defined in FAA Order 1100.2, *Organization—FAA Headquarters*, paragraph 59-16) to manage technical policy and airworthiness projects for aircraft certification, including type, original airworthiness, and production certification programs.
- 2. Audience.** The audience of this order is all aircraft certification service directorate standards staff and their managers who have rulemaking responsibilities.
- 3. Where do I Find This Order.** You can find this order at MYFAA Employee website: https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices and on the Regulatory Guidance Library (RGL) website: <http://rgl.faa.gov>.
- 4. What This Order Cancels.** FAA Order 8000.51, *Aircraft Certification Directorates*, dated February 1, 1982.
- 5. Delegations of Authority.**
 - a. For the airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness requirements over which they have responsibility as stated in subparagraph **5d** of this order, the aircraft certification directorates are delegated authority to:
 - (1) Issue, amend, suspend, or revoke type and supplemental type certificates.
 - (2) Grant or deny exemptions.
 - (3) Issue, amend, extend, or withdraw notices of proposed rulemaking.
 - (4) Issue, amend, or cancel advisory circulars that establish acceptable means of compliance, per FAA Order 1320.46, *Advisory Circular System*, and subparagraph **5c** of this order.
 - (5) Issue national directives on applying type certification airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness requirements per FAA Order 1320.1, *FAA Directives System* and subparagraph **5c** of this order.
 - (6) Issue special conditions pursuant to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) §§ 11.19, 21.16, and 21.101(d).
 - (7) Issue airworthiness directives on all associated aeronautical products (both foreign and domestic) as required by 14 CFR part 39, *Airworthiness Directives*.
 - (8) Make findings of equivalent safety per 14 CFR § 21.21(b)(1).
 - b. Each directorate is delegated authority to issue, amend, suspend, or revoke production approvals and original/recurrent airworthiness certificates within their geographic boundaries.

c. Directorates will develop advisory circulars and regulations using a public notice and comment process. This ensures that all affected parties can join in developing advisory circulars and regulations to establish airworthiness standards for aircraft certification.

d. Aircraft certification directorate airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness assignments are as follows:

(1) The Small Airplane Directorate is responsible for:

(a) 14 CFR part 23, the airworthiness standards for normal, utility, acrobatic, and commuter category airplanes.

(b) 14 CFR part 31, the airworthiness standards for manned free balloons.

(c) Airworthiness criteria for gliders and airships.

(2) The Transport Airplane Directorate is responsible for:

(a) 14 CFR part 25, the airworthiness standards for Transport Category airplanes.

(b) 14 CFR part 26 Continued Airworthiness and Safety Improvements for Transport Category Airplanes.

(3) The Rotorcraft Directorate is responsible for:

(a) 14 CFR part 27, the airworthiness standards for Normal Category Rotorcraft.

(b) 14 CFR part 29, the airworthiness standards for Transport Category Rotorcraft.

(c) Airworthiness criteria for powered lift aircraft.

(4) The Engine and Propeller Directorate is responsible for:

(a) 14 CFR part 33, airworthiness standards for airplane engines.

(b) 14 CFR part 35, the airworthiness standards for propellers.

e. Each directorate will execute certification programs within their geographic boundaries as described in Order 1100.2, paragraph 59-16.

6. Distribution. Distribute this order to the Washington headquarters director levels in the Aircraft Certification Service, Flight Standards Service, and Office of Environment and Energy; the branch levels of the regional aircraft certification directorates and Flight Standards Division; all aircraft certification field offices, Aircraft Evaluation Groups, and designated engineering representatives (DER).

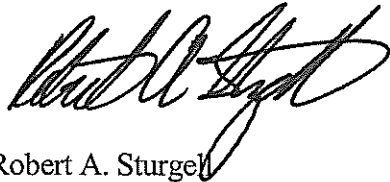
7. Suggestions for Improvement. If you find deficiencies, need clarification or want to suggest improvements to this order, send FAA form 1320-19, Directive Feedback Information, (written or electronically) to the Aircraft Certification Service, Planning and Financial Resources Management Branch, AIR-530, Attention Directives Management Officer. You can also send a copy to the Aircraft Engineering Division, Attention: Comments to Order 8000.51. If you urgently need an interpretation, contact AIR-110 at 202-267-9588. Always use Form 1320-19 to follow up each verbal conversation.

8. Records Management. Refer to Orders 0000.1, *FAA Standard Subject Classification System*; 1350.14, *Records Management*; and 1350.15, *Records, Organization, Transfer, and Destruction*

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Standards; or your office Records Management Officer or Directives Management Officer for guidance regarding retention or disposition of records.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Sturgen". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert A. Sturgen
Acting Administrator