

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.109

National Policy

Effective Date:
1/29/10

Cancellation Date:
1/29/11

SUBJ: Extended Operations (ETOPS) Station/Facility Inspection Requirements

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides revised guidance for certification and surveillance of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 119 air carrier certificate holders conducting ETOPS operations under 14 CFR part 121 or 135. This notice standardizes policy with regards to ETOPS station/facility inspection guidelines.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate-holding district office (CHDO) managers and Airworthiness aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who have certification and surveillance responsibility for part 119 certificated air carriers conducting ETOPS operations under parts 121 and/or 135. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards divisions and branches in the regions and in headquarters.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tool_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators may find this information on the FAA Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>.
- 4. Background.**

 - a. Inconsistencies.** Recently, headquarters recognized inconsistencies regarding FAA surveillance and inspection of operators' new and existing ETOPS stations/facilities, across Flight Standards regions. Specifically, some FAA offices routinely perform such inspections while others do not.
 - b. Evaluations.** Due to the special nature of ETOPS operations, regardless of who is accomplishing the work, it is the operator's responsibility to consistently and regularly evaluate all of its ETOPS stations/facilities. Such inspections are needed to ensure the ETOPS station/facilities use trained, qualified personnel and are equipped to continually sustain successful ETOPS operations in accordance with their ETOPS Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program (CAMP). It is also the responsibility of the FAA to consistently and regularly evaluate these ETOPS stations/facilities in accordance with the guidance in this notice.

5. Guidance.

a. New ETOPS Operators. For new ETOPS operators, ASIs from the CHDO may conduct ETOPS station/facility inspections in conjunction with the ETOPS validation flights. It is understood that it may not be possible for CHDO ASI's to visit all of the operator's ETOPS station/facilities during the validation flight process. Ideally, a CHDO ASI should accomplish an ETOPS station/facility inspection prior to an operator conducting revenue ETOPS operations at all of its stations. In the event that this course of action is not practical, principal ASI's must ensure that all of the operator's ETOPS stations/facilities are evaluated within 90 days after the commencement of revenue ETOPS service. The principal ASI must ensure the accomplishment of these evaluations to make certain that every ETOPS station/facility contains all of the elements required to sustain successful ETOPS operations. In addition, CHDO ASI's must re-evaluate existing ETOPS stations/facilities at a minimum of every 3 years to ensure the operator continues to maintain all of the elements required to sustain successful ETOPS operations.

b. Existing ETOPS Operators. If existing ETOPS operators want to add a new ETOPS destination, ideally the ETOPS station/facility should be inspected prior to commencement of service. However, if this is not practical, the CHDO ASI must inspect the new ETOPS station/facility no later than 90 days after initial start-up of a new ETOPS destination. In addition, CHDO ASIs must re-evaluate existing ETOPS stations/facilities at a minimum of every 3 years to ensure the operator continues to maintain all of the elements required to sustain successful ETOPS operations.

Note: For paragraph 5a and 5b, the three-year repetitive ETOPS station/facility inspection may be scheduled more often, predicated on a Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) risk assessment.

6. Action.

a. New ETOPS Operators' Inspections. Review the ETOPS Validation Plan to ensure that an ASI will complete the inspection of all proposed ETOPS stations/facilities within 90 days of the initiation of ETOPS operations in revenue service. For part 121 operators, the FAA should schedule and complete Element Performance Inspection (EPI) 5.1.8 (AW), and EPI 5.1.1 (AW) within the 90-day time period. For part 135 ETOPS operators, the FAA should document this inspection using Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) activity code 4633.

b. Existing ETOPS Operators' Inspections. A CHDO ASI must inspect new ETOPS stations/facilities within 90 days after initial start-up. Additionally, within 120 days of the date of this notice, a CHDO ASI must inspect existing ETOPS stations that have never had a CHDO ASI inspection, or have not had an inspection within the last 24 months. Part 121 CHDOs should schedule and complete EPI 5.1.8 (AW) and EPI 5.1.1 (AW) within the required time period. Part 135 ETOPS operators should document this inspection using PTRS activity code 4633.

7. Disposition. We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice to the Air Carrier Maintenance Branch, AFS-330, at (202) 385-6435, or to Mr. John J. Hiles at (202) 385-6421.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Allen". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.

John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service