

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.401

National Policy

Effective Date:
1/27/17

Cancellation Date:
1/27/18

SUBJ: Revision of OpSpec/MSpec/LOA A002, Definitions and Abbreviations

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces changes to definitions contained in Operations Specification (OpSpec)/Management Specification (MSpec)/Letter of Authorization (LOA) A002, Definitions and Abbreviations, and directs revision of the A002 templates for affected Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) operations: part 91 subpart K (part 91K); part 121; part 125, including Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) holders (A125 LODA); and part 135. The change adds three definitions relating to air cargo in support of an air cargo safety initiative.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) and principal inspectors (PI) assigned oversight of operators conducting operations under parts 91K, 121, 125, A125 LODA, and 135. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) personnel throughout the agency.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the FAA's website at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. The FAA's Cargo Focus Team (CFT), created following an aircraft accident in Bagram, Afghanistan, determined that OpSpecs A196, Air Cargo Operations, and A396, Special Cargo Operations, provide the best process for management of cargo operations. OpSpecs A002, A196, and A396 address National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) air cargo-related recommendations A-15-15 and A-15-16. The three air cargo definitions being added to OpSpec A002 will support the authorization, provisions, and limitations provided in OpSpecs A196 and A396. The definitions were developed by the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) and the Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300).

5. Explanation of Changes.

a. Air Cargo-Related Definitions. The following three air cargo-related definitions are added to A002.

(1) Bulk Cargo. Cargo usually transported as individual pieces and loaded into a compartment certified for bulk cargo. These items are generally loaded planeside and loaded directly into the bulk compartment.

(2) Certified Unit Load Device (ULD) Cargo. Cargo loaded into a ULD, as defined by National Aerospace Standard (NAS) 3610, SAE Aerospace Standard (AS) 36100, Technical Standard Order (TSO)-C90, or other certification standards as specified in the type design or supplemental type design weight and balance manual.

(3) Special Cargo. Cargo not contained in a certified ULD approved for the airplane Cargo Loading System (CLS) or enclosed in a cargo compartment certified for bulk loading. Special cargo requires special handling and securing/restraining procedures.

b. Affected OpSpec/MSpec/LOA Templates. The following A002 OpSpec, MSpec, or LOA templates will be updated with the definitions identified above:

- MSpec A002 for part 91K.
- OpSpec A002 for part 121.
- OpSpec A002 for part 121/135.
- OpSpec A002 for part 125.
- LOA A002 for A125 LODA.
- OpSpec A002 for part 135.

6. Action. Inspectors should alert operators to whom they have issued A002 to the changes announced by this notice. This is a nonmandatory change to A002; however, inspectors should reissue A002 to affected operators as soon as practical.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. You may direct questions or comments concerning this notice to AFS-200 at 202-267-8166.



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