



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Mike Monroney
Aeronautical Center

P.O. Box 25082
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

March 28, 2008

James Cooling, Esq.
Cooling & Herbers
2400 City Center Square
1100 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Cooling:

This responds to your request of March 18, 2008, for an opinion as to whether the FAA Registry website or documents (and certified copies thereof) filed with and maintained by the FAA Civil Aviation Registry are the official records of the FAA.

By way of background, in August 2002, the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration published the following notice, in part, concerning *Conversion of Aircraft Records to an Electronic Records Based System* (67 FR 161, pp. 54012-3). "The aircraft records at the Civil Aviation Registry's Aircraft Registration Branch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, have been maintained on updateable microfiche. Those records have been converted to an electronic record based system. Effective August 8, 2002, copies of aircraft records can be provided to requesters in either paper format or a digital portable document format on a compact disc. . . Effective August 8, 2002 those electronic records will become the official records for the Civil Aviation Registry's Aircraft Registration Branch."

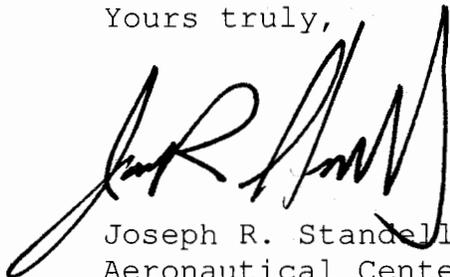
The Registry website is not the electronic record based system mentioned above. It merely summarizes for website users certain information relating to aircraft registration or recordation.

On the FAA website, in the section labeled *Flight Standards Service-Civil Aviation Registry-Aircraft Registration Branch Responsibilities*, (at www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_officers/afs/afs700/reg_responsibilities) the Registry states, "We maintain the

permanent records of over 320,000 active civil aircraft and provide electronic access to those records to users of the Public Records Document Room located in the Registry Building at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma."

The records maintained by the Civil Aviation Registry constitute the official records for the Civil Aviation Registry, and not information on the FAA Registry's website. In the event of a conflict between them, Registry records prevail.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe R. Standell', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph R. Standell,
Aeronautical Center Counsel

Cc:
Walter Binkley, AFS-750