



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

Aviation Safety
Flight Standards

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

May 19, 2023

Mr. Jim Tobul
Formation and Safety Team
PO Box 3100
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Tobul:

The General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, has reviewed the Formation and Safety Team (FAST) program and manual, Version 23.3, Feb. 2023. The FAST program is a confederation of signatory vintage military aircraft organizations whose training programs adhere to a certain level of standardization concerning formation flying training and pilot evaluation. The FAST signatory organizations are (in alphabetical order):

1. Airpower West
2. Army Aviation Heritage Foundation
3. FASTA (Australia)
4. Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association
5. Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
6. Classic Jet Aircraft Association
7. Commemorative Air Force/TRARON
8. EAA Warbirds of America
9. European FAST
10. Joint Liaison Formation Committee
11. New Zealand Warbird Association
12. North American Trainer Association
13. Red Star Pilots Association
14. Stearman Flight
15. T35/Swift Formation Committee
16. T-34 Association
17. Valiant Air Command

Upon review of the FAST program documentation, we determined that successful completion of any formation flying training and evaluation program provided by any of the above listed FAST signatory organizations, a Recognized Industry Organization (RIO), is an acceptable method for airmen to meet the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement, as established in FAA Order 8900.1, volume 3, chapter 6, section 1, for conducting (non-aerobatic) standard formation flight operations in waived airspace for an aviation event. As such, otherwise qualified pilots who possess a valid formation flying qualification card issued by any one of the aforementioned signatory FAST organizations should be qualified to conduct standard formation flying at an aviation event in the United States. We recommend that each qualified pilot carry their FAST card (electronic copy accepted) with them to verify their qualifications.

FAA acceptance of the FAST program should not be construed as a special waiver, exemption, or exception to the guidelines, provisions, and/or requirements of any Certificate of Waiver (CoW) for an aviation event and/or other pilot qualification requirements. The FAST card advises FAA field personnel that pilots who possess these cards have successfully received sufficient training and have been evaluated to conduct formation flying in a safe manner. It is expected that formation flying will be performed within all applicable guidelines and provisions of the CoW for each aviation event such as, but not limited to:

1. Adherence to appropriate show line restrictions;
2. Adherence to restrictions regarding maneuvers that direct energy toward spectators;
3. Adherence to appropriate minimum safe altitudes restrictions; and,
4. Appropriate participation at the participant safety briefings.

We will post this information and a list of signatory organization on our FAA National Aviation Events Program website (<https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>) notifying all ASIs that FAST continues to be a RIO with an accepted formation program Any changes to this manual will require revalidation by this office.

This authorization expires on **December 31, 2026**.

We appreciate the cooperation you have extended to the FAA and look forward to working with FAST in the future to assure the highest levels of aviation safety for the airshow and aviation event community. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact this office at (206) 231-3770 or via email at david.menzimer@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Menzimer
Manager, General Aviation Operations Section, AFS-830 GAO