

Are you Issuing a Special Airworthiness Certificate outside the United States?

Manufacturing function codes include issuance of Special Airworthiness Certificates, which are not valid for flight operations outside the United States. The designee is required to coordinate with their managing specialist when they have an applicant for these certifications outside the United States. The following is from FAA Order 8130.2J, Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft:

4-3. Flight Operations outside the United States. A special airworthiness certificate does not authorize flight operations over a foreign country without the permission of that country. However, the FAA still issues the certificate when the applicant intends to operate the aircraft over other countries as long as the applicant meets requirements for that certificate. A U.S. special airworthiness certificate is often helpful to a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) when issuing its permission to operate the aircraft in or over its country. If the FAA knows the affected CAA will not permit operation of the aircraft in or over its country, the FAA cannot deny issuance of the certificate if the applicant has met requirements for that certificate. In any case, an ASI should make the applicable CAA(s) aware of the aircraft, its category or experimental purpose, and the operating limitations for the aircraft.

Manufacturing function codes for Special Airworthiness Certificates included the words “located in the United States”. This was to prohibit issuance of these certificates where they were not valid for flight. With the publication of FAA Order 8130.2J, eligible aircraft located outside of the United States are now eligible for the certificate. However, FAA Order 8130.2J requires an ASI from the designee’s managing office to contact the affected CAA(s).

To facilitate this process, the DMS pre-approval workflow for manufacturing designees was recently modified with the question “Are you requesting this activity outside the United States?” If you answer yes, the system opens a text box for you to enter the country or countries where the applicant intends to operate the aircraft.

Approval Request Data Fields	
Select the type of Certification *	<div>Irworthiness Certification</div>
Select Function Type *	<div>Special (40-75)</div>
Are you requesting this activity outside the United States? *	<div><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</div>
Enter the country where this activity will take place *	<div>(Max length: 4000 / 4000 left)</div> <div></div>

When you select this option DMS moves the pre-approval request to the manual approval process requiring the managing specialist to review the request and contact the appropriate CAAs prior to approval. As a result of this change to the manufacturing pre-approval workflow the words “located in the United States” have been removed from all manufacturing function code definitions.