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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: U.S. AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES AND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OPERATION OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AIRCRAFT

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular provides general information and guidance concerning issuance of airworthiness certificates for U.S. registered aircraft, and issuance of special flight authorizations for operation in the United States of foreign aircraft not having standard airworthiness certificates issued by the country of registry. As appropriate, the information contained herein sets forth an acceptable means, but not the sole means, for compliance with the Federal Aviation Regulations.

2. REFERENCES.

   a. Federal Aviation Regulations Parts 21, 45, 47, and 91.

   b. The following Advisory Circulars:

      (1) No. 20-27A, "Certification and Operation of Amateur-Built Aircraft."

      (2) No. 21-4A, "Special Flight Permits for Operation of Overweight Aircraft."

      (3) No. 21-7, "Certification and Approval of Import Products."

3. BACKGROUND.

   a. Under the provisions of the FA Act of 1958, and the implementing Federal Aviation Regulations, a civil aircraft must have a currently effective airworthiness certificate before it may be operated within the United States. The airworthiness certificate requirements are applicable to the operation of foreign, as well as U.S. registered aircraft.

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4. CERTIFICATES AND AUTHORIZATIONS USED. Three kinds of certificates or authorizations are currently used by the FAA to implement the provisions of the FA Act of 1958.

a. Standard Airworthiness Certificates (FAA Form 8100-2) are issued for aircraft which fully conform to the airworthiness requirements in FAR Parts 23 through 31, as applicable, for airplanes, rotorcraft, and balloons, and in FAR Part 21, Section 21.23 for gliders.

b. Special Airworthiness Certificates (FAA Form 8130-7) are issued for all nonstandard aircraft, as classified under FAR Part 21, Section 21.175(b). Special airworthiness certificates in the restricted, experimental, and special flight permit classifications are issued only for specific purposes, as specified in FAR Part 21, Sections 21.25(b), 21.191, and 21.197. In the case of the restricted classification, the purpose for which the restricted type certificate is issued, under FAR Part 21, Section 21.25(b), determines the purpose for which the special airworthiness certificate is issued.

c. Special flight authorizations are issued to permit certain operations in the United States of foreign civil aircraft which do not have appropriate and current airworthiness certificates. The purposes for which such authorizations may be issued are specified in FAR Part 91, Section 91.28.

5. APPLICATION.

a. Standard Airworthiness Certificate. Application for a standard airworthiness certificate is made on an Application for Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8130-6 (formerly FAA Form 305). Forms may be obtained from any FAA Flight Standards Office, where advice concerning the form and procedures can also be given if necessary. In general, the items on the application form are self-explanatory. Before submitting his aircraft for airworthiness certification, the applicant should have the aircraft registered in accordance with FAR Part 47, identified and marked in accordance with FAR Part 45, and should meet the applicable requirements of FAR Part 21, Section 21.183, of which subsections 21.183(a) and (b) are generally self-explanatory. The following paragraphs provide information intended to be helpful in establishing compliance with the provisions of FAR Part 21, subsections 21.183 (c) and (d).

(1) 21.183(c) "Import Aircraft." Advisory Circular No. 21-7 provides guidance for airworthiness certification of import aircraft.

(2) 21.183(d) "Other Aircraft." This subsection is generally applicable to used aircraft, however, its provisions are also applied to standard airworthiness certification of aircraft

built from spare and surplus parts. In addition to FAA approved type design drawings, the following documents and other material may also be helpful in establishing the evidence of conformity which the applicant is required to present under 21.183(d)(1):

(a) Identification marks, invoices, shipping tickets or other documents to identify approved parts installed in the aircraft. Additional guidance is provided in Advisory Circular No. 20-62, "Eligibility, Quality, and Identification of Approved Aeronautical Replacement Parts."

(b) Military or civil records of aircraft, parts, appliances, and components showing service history and record of maintenance and alterations. In this connection, sales documents alone, either civil or military, covering used aircraft, parts, appliances, and components, would not constitute evidence of conformity.

NOTE: Parts manuals or overhaul manuals may be used for guidance, however, such manuals are not evidence of conformity for individual parts used in an aircraft. A parts or overhaul manual may serve to establish the required part numbers, however, data such as that described in the preceding paragraphs would normally be needed to establish conformity of any given item.

b. Special Airworthiness Certificate. Application for a special airworthiness certificate is generally in the same form and manner as described in paragraph 5a for standard airworthiness certificates. (Additional information pertinent to amateur-built aircraft and special flight permits for overweight operation of aircraft, is available in Advisory Circulars No. 20-27A and 21-4A, respectively.) In extenuating circumstances, such as the evacuation of an aircraft from an area of impending danger, an application for a special airworthiness certificate in the special flight permit classification may be made by telephone or telegram, giving the following:

(1) Name and address of the registered owner.

(2) Registration number, make, model, and serial number of the aircraft, and

(3) Information as required by FAR Part 21, Section 21.199.

c. Special Flight Authorization.

(1) Application for a special flight authorization for a foreign civil aircraft may be made by letter or telegram to the FAA office responsible for the area in which the applicant is located (see Appendix I). In order to facilitate issuance of the authorization, it is recommended that the following information be provided. The FAA office issuing the authorization may request additional information if deemed necessary.

(a) The name and address of the applicant, if different from that of the registered owner.

(b) The name and address of the registered owner.

(c) The foreign registration mark, make, model, and serial number of the aircraft.

(d) The kind of airworthiness document, if any, issued for the aircraft by the country of registry.

(e) The operating purpose for which the special flight authorization is requested and any other information helpful in establishing that the aircraft is eligible under FAR Part 91, Section 91.28.

(f) Information, such as total time on the aircraft, flight test experience, type certification status, etc., to aid in establishing that the flights with appropriate limitations will not adversely affect safety.

(g) Depending upon the purpose requested, the base of operations in the United States for the proposed flights, the areas where the flights will be conducted, and/or the proposed U.S. ports of entry and exit and the itinerary while operating in the U.S.

(h) The duration for which the special flight authorization is requested.

(i) If applicable, whether flight tests are in connection with an application for U.S. supplemental type certificate approval of a modification.

(j) Any operating limitations recommended by the applicant or the country of registry before operation of the aircraft.

(2) Since the operations authorized under FAR Part 91, Section 91.28(b)(3) may be conducted on a frequent, repetitive basis by U.S. aircraft manufacturers, a "blanket" authorization for use with more than one aircraft may be issued by the FAA. It is recommended that a U.S. manufacturer applying for a "blanket" authorization provide at least the following information:

(a) The name and address of the manufacturer.

(b) The purpose or purposes under FAR 91, Section 91.28(b)(3) for which the "blanket" authorization is requested and the number of copies required to meet operating needs.

(c) Information to aid in establishing that the flights, with appropriate limitations, will not adversely affect safety.

(3) If the applicant desires to operate in the U.S. an aircraft which is registered in a foreign country not a member of ICAO, the applicant must also obtain an authorization from the Civil Aeronautics Board, 1825 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20428, as required by CAB Regulations Part 375.

6. ISSUANCE.

a. Standard airworthiness certificates are issued when the FAA finds that the aircraft meets the appropriate requirements of FAR Part 21, Section 21.183.

b. Special airworthiness certificates are issued when the FAA finds that the aircraft meets the requirements of FAR Part 21, Section 21.185 through 21.199, as applicable for the certificate requested. Operating limitations are generally prescribed with special airworthiness certificates. FAR Part 91, Sections 91.39 through 91.42, as applicable, specify limitations which must be complied with in all cases; however, the FAA inspector issuing the special airworthiness certificate may prescribe additional limitations if considered necessary for safety.

c. Special flight authorizations are issued for foreign civil aircraft when, upon review of the information submitted by the applicant (reference paragraph 5c), the FAA finds that the proposed operation is within the scope of FAR Part 91, Section 91.28.

Edward C Hodson
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Flight Standards Service

FAA Offices to Which Application for Special Flight Authorizations for Foreign Civil Aircraft Should be Submitted

1. When the applicant is in the United States, the application should be submitted to the Director of the FAA region in which the applicant is located. Guidance may be obtained from the nearest Flight Standards Office.

2. When the applicant is outside the United States, the application should be submitted to the appropriate address as follows:

LOCATION OF APPLICANT	FAA OFFICE
a. Canada	Regional Director, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Building, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Jamaica, New York 11430 Attention: EA-210
b. Caribbean Area, South America, Central America, (excluding Mexico) Panama, and the Canal Zone	Regional Director, Federal Aviation Administration, P.O. Box 20636, Atlanta, Georgia 30320 Attention: SO-210
c. Mexico	Regional Director, Federal Aviation Administration, P.O. Box 1689, Fort Worth, Texas 76101 Attention: SW-210
d. Area East of East Pakistan and India, including all free nations south and east of China	Regional Director, Federal Aviation Administration P.O. Box 4009, Honolulu, Hawaii 96812 Attention: PC-210
e. Europe, Africa, Middle East west of Burma, Iceland, Greenland, and Bermuda	Regional Director, Federal Aviation Administration, Tour-Madou Building 1 Place Madou, Brussels 3, Belgium Attention: EU-100