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ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Definition of "U. S. National Aviation Standards"

1. PURPOSE. To inform the aviation community of the approval by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration of a definition of "U. S. National Aviation Standards," the need for such standards and their relationship to Federal Aviation Regulations.

2. BACKGROUND.

a. Need for "U. S. National Aviation Standards." The agency has a statutory responsibility to the public to improve the efficiency of the air traffic control and air navigation and communications system and establish standards of performance to assure satisfactory service to those who operate in it. To effectively carry out this responsibility, FAA maintains a continuous systematic program for modernizing its ATC, communications, and navigation facilities systems. These systems consist of ground and airborne subsystems. Standardization of these components is advantageous to:

(1) Meet anticipated system requirements.

(2) Provide the basis for regulatory standards in time to satisfy safety and efficient utilization of the airspace missions of the agency.

(3) Inform voluntary users what standards should be observed to participate in the evolving system.

(4) Prepare the U. S. role in the development of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and recommended practices.

(5) Minimize the number of different equipments which aircraft need carry to obtain optimum service from the NAS.

Initiated by: RD-54

3. DEFINITION.

"U. S. National Aviation Standards" are system standards embodying descriptions of system characteristics. They are issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation. They describe the performance characteristics, (the technical parameters, tolerances and techniques) of major elements of the system to the extent required to insure proper operation and compatibility between elements of the National Airspace System (NAS). U. S. National Aviation Standards generally would be limited to cooperative air-to-ground subsystems involving government-owned ground equipments and private airborne equipments. For example, the ATCRBS System "National Standard" describes those performance characteristics of the ground and airborne components needed to assure effective operation of radar beacon transponders carried by military and civil aircraft as effective elements of national air traffic control procedures. "U. S. National Aviation Standards" are not equipment specifications, or standards pertaining to hardware, planning, programming, installation, siting, availability, reliability, or maintainability."

"U. S. National Standards" such as ATCRBS standards, will be referred to as "U. S. National Aviation Standards."

4. HOW TO OBRAIN THIS PUBLICATION . Additional copies of this circular may be obtained from the Department of Transportation, Utilization and Storage Section, M-443.2, Washington, D.C. 20590

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