



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
National Policy

**ORDER  
8000.51C**

Effective Date:  
05/02/17

**SUBJ:** Aircraft Certification Service Delegation of Authority

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- 1. Purpose of This Order.** This order grants certain authority to the Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) to manage technical policy and airworthiness projects for aircraft certification, including type, original airworthiness, and production certification programs.
- 2. Audience.** This order is written for all Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) managers and staff.
- 3. Where Do I Find This Order.** You can find this order on the Directives Management System (DMS) website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) or [http://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/orders\\_notices/](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/) and on the FAA's Regulatory and Guidance Library (RGL) website at <http://rgl.faa.gov>.
- 4. Cancellation.** FAA Order 8000.51B, *Aircraft Certification Directorates' Delegation of Authority*, dated June 11, 2010, is cancelled.
- 5. Explanation of Changes.** This order incorporates the following changes:
  - a. Delegates authority to the Director, AIR and allows further delegation by the Director.
  - b. Updates the responsibilities for issuing airworthiness directives (AD).
  - c. Updates the geographic responsibilities regarding foreign certification programs.
  - d. Adds authority to make the certification statement required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), and to waive or delay certain requirements as specified by the RFA.
- 6. Delegations of Authority.**
  - a. The Director, AIR is delegated authority to perform all actions listed below. The Director may further delegate these responsibilities to any office within AIR. In addition, the aircraft certification directorates or successor functional divisions are delegated authority to perform the following actions for the airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness requirements for which they are responsible, as stated in paragraph 6e of this order—
    - (1) Issue, amend, suspend, or revoke type and supplemental type certificates.
    - (2) Grant or deny requests for exemptions.
    - (3) Issue, amend, extend, or withdraw notices of proposed rulemaking.

(4) Issue, amend, or cancel advisory circulars that establish acceptable means of compliance, pursuant to FAA Order 1320.46, *Advisory Circular System*, and paragraph 6d of this order.

(5) Issue national directives on applying type certification airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness requirements pursuant to FAA Order 1320.1, *FAA Directives Management*, and paragraph 6d of this order.

(6) Issue special conditions pursuant to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) 11.19, 21.16, and 21.101(d).

(7) Make findings of equivalent safety pursuant to 14 CFR 21.21(b)(1).

(8) Issue ADs as required by 14 CFR part 39 for all associated aeronautical products (both foreign and domestic). Issuance includes the following:

(a) Appliances whose design approval holder is within the directorate's or successor functional division's assigned responsibility pursuant to paragraph 6f of this order to include appliances manufactured under a technical standard order (TSO) authorization, letter of acceptance as described in § 21.613(b), or letter of TSO design approval (LODA).

(b) Any product with an unsafe condition that also affects a product for which the directorate or successor functional division does not have product responsibility, such as an unsafe condition that affects both small and transport category airplanes. The affected directorates or successor functional divisions must agree on one directorate or successor functional division to issue the AD. Coordination between affected directorates or successor functional divisions is required; however, only the directorate or successor functional division that issues the AD signs it.

(c) Any product with an unsafe condition whose corrective action involves both a product for which the directorate or successor functional division has responsibility and a product for which the directorate or successor functional division does not have responsibility. For example, the Engine and Propeller Directorate is authorized to issue an engine AD that includes an aircraft-level corrective action. Coordination between affected directorates or successor functional divisions is required; however, only the directorate or successor functional division that issues the AD signs it.

**b.** Each directorate or successor functional division is delegated authority to issue, and upon request of holders, amend production approvals and original/recurrent airworthiness certificates within its assigned boundaries. In accordance with 14 CFR part 13 and Order 2150.3, as revised, each directorate or successor functional division is also delegated authority to investigate and to refer cases to the Office of Chief Counsel for legal enforcement action to amend, suspend, or revoke these approvals and certificates.

**c.** Each directorate or successor functional division is delegated authority to take all actions necessary, in consultation with the Office of Aviation Policy and Plans (APO) to comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act. These actions include, but are not limited to, those actions necessary to complete an Initial or Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and required certification statements.

**d.** Directorates or successor functional divisions will develop advisory circulars and regulations using a public notice and comment process. This ensures all affected parties can join in developing advisory circulars and regulations to establish airworthiness standards for aircraft certification.

**e.** Offices within AIR are responsible for airworthiness standards and continued airworthiness requirements as defined in FAA Order 8100.5.

**f.** Each AIR office will execute certification programs within its assigned boundaries, as described in FAA Order 8100.5, *Aircraft Certification Service Mission, Responsibilities, Relationships, and Programs*, and as outlined in the appropriate airworthiness bilateral agreement and associated implementation procedures.

**g.** If project prioritization and resource management or the utilization of specific technical specialties results in an office other than the one listed in paragraph 6f above being assigned a project, that office is delegated the authority to perform those functions consistent with the authority of the office listed in paragraph 6f above. Upon completion of the project, all continued airworthiness responsibilities, including AD action if necessary, revert to the office listed in paragraph 6f.

**7. Suggestions for Improvement.** If you find deficiencies, need clarification, or want to suggest improvements to this order, send a written or electronic copy of FAA Form 1320-19, Directive Feedback Information, to the Aircraft Certification Service, Administrative Services Branch, Attention Directives Management Officer at [9-AWA-AVS-AIR-DMO@faa.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AVS-AIR-DMO@faa.gov); or forward your request by using the automated Directive Feedback System on the web at <http://ksn2.avs.faa.gov/avs/dfs/Pages/Home.aspx>. If you urgently need clarification of a provision of this order, contact AIR-100 at 202-267-1575. Always use FAA Form 1320-19 to follow up each verbal conversation.

**8. Records Management.** Refer to FAA Order 0000.1, *FAA Standard Subject Classification System*; FAA Order 1350.14, *Records Management*; or your Records Management Officer (RMO)/Directives Management Officer (DMO) for guidance regarding retention or disposition of records.

**9. Distribution.** Distribute this order to the Washington, DC, headquarters director levels in AIR, the Flight Standards Service, and the Office of Environment and Energy; the branch levels of the regional aircraft certification directorates and flight standards divisions; all aircraft certification field offices, aircraft evaluation groups, and designated engineering representatives.



Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator

**Appendix A. FAA Form 1320-19, Directive Feedback Information**



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

**Directive Feedback Information**

Please submit any written comments or recommendations for improving this directive, or suggest new items or subjects to be added to it. Also, if you find an error, please tell us about it.

Subject: FAA Order 8000.51C

To: Directive Management Officer at [9-AWA-AVS-AIR-DMO@faa.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AVS-AIR-DMO@faa.gov).

*(Please check all appropriate line items)*

- An error (procedural or typographical) has been noted in paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ on page \_\_\_\_\_.
- Recommend paragraph \_\_\_\_\_ on page \_\_\_\_\_ be changed as follows:  
*(attach separate sheet if necessary)*
- In a future change to this directive, please include coverage on the following subject  
*(briefly describe what you want added):*

Other comments:

I would like to discuss the above. Please contact me.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FTS Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Routing Symbol: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAA Form 1320-19 (10-98)**