PART 21—CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR PRODUCTS AND PARTS

SUBCHAPTER C—AIRCRAFT

Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 88

Subpart A—General
Sec.
21.1 Applicability.
21.2 Falsification of applications, reports, or records.
21.3 Reporting of failures, malfunctions, and defects.
21.4 ETOPS reporting requirements.
21.5 Airplane or Rotorcraft Flight Manual.
21.6 Manufacture of new aircraft, aircraft engines, and propellers.
21.7 Continued airworthiness and safety improvements for transport category airplanes.
21.8 Approval of articles.
21.9 Replacement and modification articles.

Subpart B—Type Certificates
21.11 Applicability.
21.13 Eligibility.
21.15 Application for type certificate.
21.16 Special conditions.
21.17 Designation of applicable regulations.
21.19 Changes requiring a new type certificate.
21.20 Compliance with applicable requirements.
21.21 Issue of type certificate: normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, and transport category aircraft; manned free balloons; special classes of aircraft; aircraft engines; propellers.
21.23 [Reserved]
21.24 Issuance of type certificate: primary category aircraft.
21.27 Issue of type certificate: surplus aircraft of the Armed Forces.
21.31 Type design.
21.33 Inspection and tests.
21.35 Flight tests.
21.39 Flight test instrument calibration and correction report.
21.41 Type certificate.
21.43 Location of manufacturing facilities.
21.45 Privileges.
21.47 Transferability.
21.49 Availability.
21.50 Instructions for continued airworthiness and manufacturer’s maintenance manuals having airworthiness limitations sections.
21.51 Duration.
21.53 Statement of conformity.
21.55 Responsibility of type certificate holders to provide written licensing agreements.

Subpart C—Provisional Type Certificates
21.71 Applicability.
21.73 Eligibility.
21.75 Application.
21.77 Duration.
21.79 Transferability.
21.81 Requirements for issue and amendment of Class I provisional type certificates.
21.83 Requirements for issue and amendment of Class II provisional type certificates.
21.85 Provisional amendments to type certificates.

Subpart D—Changes to Type Certificates
21.91 Applicability.
21.93 Classification of changes in type design.
21.95 Approval of minor changes in type design.
21.97 Approval of major changes in type design.
21.99 Required design changes.
21.101 Designation of applicable regulations.

Subpart E—Supplemental Type Certificates
21.111 Applicability.
21.113 Requirement of supplemental type certificate.
21.115 Applicable requirements.
21.117 Issue of supplemental type certificates.
21.119 Privileges.
21.120 Responsibility of supplemental type certificate holders to provide written permission for alterations.

Subpart F—Production Under Type Certificate Only
21.121 Applicability.
21.122 Location of or change to manufacturing facilities.
21.123 Production under type certificate.
21.130 Statement of conformity.
Subpart G—Production Certificates

21.131 Applicability.
21.133 Eligibility.
21.135 Requirements for issuance.
21.137 Location of manufacturing facilities.
21.139 Quality control.
21.143 Quality control data requirements; prime manufacturer.
21.147 Changes in quality control system.
21.149 Multiple products.
21.151 Production limitation record.
21.153 Amendment of the production certificates.
21.155 Transferability.
21.157 Inspections and tests.
21.159 Duration.
21.161 Display.
21.163 Privileges.
21.165 Responsibility of holder.

Subpart H—Airworthiness Certificates

21.171 Applicability.
21.173 Eligibility.
21.177 Amendment or modification.
21.179 Transferability.
21.181 Duration.
21.183 Aircraft identification.
21.185 Issue of airworthiness certificates for normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, and transport category aircraft; manned free balloons; and special classes of aircraft.
21.187 Issue of airworthiness certificates for primary category aircraft.
21.189 Issue of airworthiness certificate for limited category aircraft.
21.190 Issue of a special airworthiness certificate for a light-sport category aircraft.
21.191 Experimental certificates.
21.195 Experimental certificates: Aircraft to be used for market surveys, sales demonstrations, and customer crew training.
21.197 Special flight permits.
21.199 Issue of special flight permits.

Subpart I—Provisional Airworthiness Certificates

21.211 Applicability.
21.213 Eligibility.
21.215 Application.
21.217 Duration.
21.219 Transferability.
21.221 Class I provisional airworthiness certificates.
21.223 Class II provisional airworthiness certificates.
21.225 Provisional airworthiness certificates corresponding with provisional amendments to type certificates.

Subpart J—Delegation Option Authorization Procedures

21.231 Applicability.
21.233 Application.
21.235 Eligibility.
21.237 Duration.
21.239 Maintenance of eligibility.
21.241 Transferability.
21.243 Inspections.
21.245 Limits of applicability.
21.247 Type certificates: application.
21.249 Type certificates: issue.
21.251 Equivalent safety provisions.
21.253 Production certificates.
21.255 Export airworthiness approvals.
21.257 Airworthiness approval tags.
21.259 Airworthiness certificates other than experimental.
21.261 Experimental certificates.
21.263 Data review and service experience.
21.265 Major repairs, rebuilding and alteration.
21.267 Current records.

Subpart K—Approval of Materials, Parts, Processes, and Appliances

21.301 Applicability.
21.303 Replacement and modification parts.
21.305 Approval of materials, parts, processes, and appliances.

Subpart L—Export Airworthiness Approvals

21.323 Export airworthiness approvals.
21.325 Application.
21.327 Issuance of export certificates of airworthiness.
21.331 Issuance of export airworthiness approvals for aircraft engines, propellers, and articles.
21.333 Responsibilities of exporters.

Subpart M—Designated Alteration Station Authorization Procedures

21.431 Applicability.
21.433 Application.
21.435 Eligibility.
21.439 Duration.
21.441 Maintenance of eligibility.
21.443 Transferability.
21.445 Inspections.
21.447 Limits of applicability.
21.449 Equivalent safety provisions.
21.451 Supplemental type certificates.
21.453 Airworthiness certificates other than experimental.
21.455 Experimental certificates.
21.457 Data review and service experience.
Federal Aviation Administration, DOT

21.493 Current records.

Subpart N—Acceptance of Aircraft Engines, Propellers, and Articles for Import

21.500 Acceptance of aircraft engines and propellers.

21.562 Acceptance of articles.

Subpart O—Technical Standard Order Authorizations

21.601 Applicability.

21.603 TSO marking and privileges.

21.605 Application and issue.


21.609 Approval for deviation.

21.611 Design changes.

21.613 Recordkeeping requirements.

21.615 FAA inspection.


21.619 Noncompliance.

21.621 Transferability and duration.


Effective Date Note: By Amdt. 21-92, 74 FR 33384, Oct. 16, 2009, part 21 was amended by removing the word “Administrator” and adding in its place the word “FAA” wherever it appeared; removing the word “shall” and adding in its place the word “must” wherever it appeared; and removing the phrase “type certificate only” and adding in its place the phrase “type certificate” wherever it appeared, effective Apr. 14, 2010. This effective date was postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

Editorial Note: For miscellaneous amendments to cross references in this Part 21 see Amdt. 21–10, 31 FR 9211, July 6, 1966.

SPECIAL FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION NO. 88—FUEL TANK SYSTEM FAULT TOLERANCE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicability. This SFAR applies to the holders of type certificates, and supplemental type certificates that may affect the airplane fuel tank system, for turbine-powered transport category airplanes, provided the type certificate was issued after January 1, 1958, and the airplane has either a maximum type certificated passenger capacity of 30 or more, or a maximum type certificated payload capacity of 7,500 pounds or more. This SFAR also applies to applicants for type certificates, amendments to a type certificate, and supplemental type certificates affecting the fuel tank systems for those airplanes identified above, if the application was filed before June 6, 2001, the effective date of this SFAR, and the certificate was not issued before June 6, 2001.

2. Compliance: Each type certificate holder, and each supplemental type certificate holder of a modification affecting the airplane fuel tank system, must accomplish the following within the compliance times specified in paragraph (e) of this section:

(a) Conduct a safety review of the airplane fuel tank system to determine that the design meets the requirements of §§25.901 and 25.981(a) and (b) of this chapter. If the current design does not meet these requirements, develop all design changes to the fuel tank system that are necessary to meet these requirements. The FAA (Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), or office of the Transport Airplane Directorate, having cognizance over the type certificate for the affected airplane) may grant an extension of the 18-month compliance time for development of design changes if:

(1) The safety review is completed within the compliance time;

(2) Necessary design changes are identified within the compliance time; and

(3) Additional time can be justified, based on the holder’s demonstrated aggressiveness in performing the safety review, the complexity of the necessary design changes, the availability of interim actions to provide an acceptable level of safety, and the resulting level of safety.

(b) Develop all maintenance and inspection instructions necessary to maintain the design features required to preclude the existence or development of an ignition source within the fuel tank system of the airplane.

(c) Submit a report for approval to the FAA Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), or office of the Transport Airplane Directorate, having cognizance over the type certificate for the affected airplane, that:

(1) Provides substantiation that the airplane fuel tank system design, including all necessary design changes, meets the requirements of §§25.901 and 25.981(a) and (b) of this chapter; and

(2) Contains all maintenance and inspection instructions necessary to maintain the design features required to preclude the existence or development of an ignition source within the fuel tank system throughout the operational life of the airplane.

(d) The Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), or office of the Transport Airplane Directorate, having cognizance over the type certificate for the affected airplane, may approve a report submitted in accordance with paragraph (c) if it determines that any provisions of this SFAR not complied with are compensated for by factors that provide an equivalent level of safety.

(e) Each type certificate holder must comply no later than December 6, 2002, or within
§ 21.1  Applicability and definitions.

(a) This part prescribes—

(1) Procedural requirements for the issuance and changing of type certificates and of export airworthiness certificates, and the issue of export airworthiness approvals.

(2) Rules governing the holders of any certificate specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section; and

(3) Procedural requirements for the approval of articles.

(b) For the purposes of this part—

(1) Airworthiness approval means a document issued by the FAA for an aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or article which certifies that the aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or article conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation;

(2) Article means a material, part, component, process, or appliance;

(3) Commercial part means an article that is listed on an FAA-approved Commercial Parts List included in a design approval holder’s Instructions for Continued Airworthiness required by § 21.50;

(4) Design approval means a type certificate (including amended and supplemental type certificates) or the approved design under a PMA, TSO authorization, letter of TSO design approval, or other approved design;

(5) Product means an aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller;

(6) Production approval means a document issued by the FAA to a person that allows the production of a product or article in accordance with its approved design and approved quality system, and can take the form of a production certificate, a PMA, or a TSO authorization;

(7) State of Design means the country or jurisdiction having regulatory authority over the organization responsible for the design and continued airworthiness of a civil aeronautical product or article;

(8) State of Manufacture means the country or jurisdiction having regulatory authority over the organization responsible for the production and airworthiness of a civil aeronautical product or article.

§ 21.2  Falsification of applications, reports, or records.

(a) No person shall make or cause to be made—

(1) Any fraudulent or intentionally false statement on any application for a certificate or approval under this part;

(2) Any fraudulent or intentionally false entry in any record or report that is required to be kept, made, or used to show compliance with any requirement for the issuance or the exercise of the privileges of any certificate or approval issued under this part;

(3) Any reproduction for a fraudulent purpose of any certificate or approval issued under this part;

(4) Any alteration of any certificate or approval issued under this part.

(b) The commission by any person of an act prohibited under paragraph (a)
Federal Aviation Administration, DOT

§ 21.2 Falsification of applications, reports, or records.

(a) A person may not make or cause to be made—

(1) Any fraudulent, intentionally false, or misleading statement on any application for a certificate or approval under this part;

(2) Any fraudulent, intentionally false, or misleading statement in any record or report that is kept, made, or used to show compliance with any requirement of this part;

(b) The commission by any person of an act prohibited under paragraph (a) of this section is a basis for—

(1) Denying issuance of any certificate or approval under this part; and

(2) Suspending or revoking any certificate or approval issued under this part and held by that person.

§ 21.3 Reporting of failures, malfunctions, and defects.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the holder of a Type Certificate (including a Supplemental Type Certificate), a Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), or a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a Type Certificate shall report any failure, malfunction, or defect in any product, part, process, or article manufactured by it that it determines has resulted in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) The holder of a Type Certificate (including a Supplemental Type Certificate), a Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), or a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a Type Certificate shall report any defect in any product, part, or article manufactured by it that has left its quality control system and that it determines could result in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) The following occurrences must be reported as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section:

(1) Fires caused by a system or equipment failure, malfunction, or defect.

(2) An engine exhaust system failure, malfunction, or defect which causes damage to the engine, adjacent aircraft structure, equipment, or components.

(3) The accumulation or circulation of toxic or noxious gases in the crew compartment or passenger cabin.

(4) A malfunction, failure, or defect of a propeller control system.

(5) A propeller or rotorcraft hub or blade structural failure.

(6) Flammable fluid leakage in areas where an ignition source normally exists.

(7) A brake system failure caused by structural or material failure during operation.

(8) A significant aircraft primary structural defect or failure caused by any autogenous condition (fatigue, understrength, corrosion, etc.).

(9) Any abnormal vibration or buffeting caused by a structural or system malfunction, defect, or failure.

(10) An engine failure.

(11) Any structural or flight control system malfunction, defect, or failure which causes an interference with normal control of the aircraft for which derogates the flying qualities.

(12) A complete loss of more than one electrical power generating system or hydraulic power system during a given operation of the aircraft.

(13) A failure or malfunction of more than one attitude, airspeed, or altitude instrument during a given operation of the aircraft.

(d) The requirements of paragraph (a) of this section do not apply to—

(1) Failures, malfunctions, or defects that the holder of a Type Certificate (including a Supplemental Type Certificate), Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), or TSO authorization, or the licensee of a Type Certificate—

(i) Determines were caused by improper maintenance, or improper usage;

(ii) Knows were reported to the FAA by another person under the Federal Aviation Regulations; or

(iii) Has already reported under the accident reporting provisions of Part
§ 21.3 Reporting of failures, malfunctions, and defects.

(a) The holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), a PMA, a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate must report any failure, malfunction, or defect in any product or article manufactured by it that it determines has resulted in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) The holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), a PMA, or a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate must report any defect in any product or article manufactured by it that has left its quality system and that it determines could result in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) * * * *

(d) * * * *

(1) Failures, malfunctions, or defects that the holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), PMA, TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate determines—

(i) Were caused by improper maintenance or use;

(ii) Were reported to the FAA by another person under this chapter; or

(iii) Were reported under the accident reporting provisions of 49 CFR part 830 of the regulations of the National Transportation Safety Board.

(2) Failures, malfunctions, or defects in products or articles—

(i) Manufactured by a foreign manufacturer under a U.S. type certificate issued under §21.29 or under an approval issued under §21.621; or


(e) * * * *

(3) Must include as much of the following information as is available and applicable:

(i) Aircraft serial number.

(ii) When the failure, malfunction, or defect is associated with an engine or propeller, the engine or propeller serial number, as appropriate.

(iii) Product model.

(iv) Identification of the part, component, or system involved. The identification must include the part number.

(v) Nature of the failure, malfunction, or defect.

(f) Whenever the investigation of an accident or service difficulty report shows that an article manufactured under a TSO authorization is unsafe because of a manufacturing or design defect, the manufacturer shall, upon request of the Administrator, report to the Administrator the results of its investigation and any action taken or proposed by the manufacturer to correct that defect. If action is required to correct the defect in existing articles, the manufacturer shall submit the data necessary for the issuance of an appropriate airworthiness directive to the Manager of the Aircraft Certification Office for the geographic area of the FAA regional office in the region in which it is located.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. 21-32, 74 FR 53385, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.3 was amended by revising paragraphs (a), (b), (d)(1), (d)(2), (e)(3), and (f), effective Apr. 14, 2010. This effective date was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.3 Reporting of failures, malfunctions, and defects.

(a) The holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), a PMA, or a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate must report any failure, malfunction, or defect in any product or article manufactured by it that it determines has resulted in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) The holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), a PMA, or a TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate must report any defect in any product or article manufactured by it that has left its quality system and that it determines could result in any of the occurrences listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) * * * *

(d) * * * *

(1) Failures, malfunctions, or defects that the holder of a type certificate (including amended or supplemental type certificates), PMA, TSO authorization, or the licensee of a type certificate determines—

(i) Were caused by improper maintenance or use;

(ii) Were reported to the FAA by another person under this chapter; or

(iii) Were reported under the accident reporting provisions of 49 CFR part 830 of the regulations of the National Transportation Safety Board.

(2) Failures, malfunctions, or defects in products or articles—

(i) Manufactured by a foreign manufacturer under a U.S. type certificate issued under §21.29 or under an approval issued under §21.621; or


(e) * * * *

(3) Must include as much of the following information as is available and applicable:
§ 21.4 ETOPS reporting requirements.

(a) Early ETOPS: reporting, tracking, and resolving problems. The holder of a type certificate for an airplane-engine combination approved using the Early ETOPS method specified in part 25, Appendix K, of this chapter must use a system for reporting, tracking, and resolving each problem resulting in one of the occurrences specified in paragraph (a)(6) of this section.

1. The system must identify how the type certificate holder will promptly identify problems, report them to the responsible FAA aircraft certification office, and propose a solution to the FAA to resolve each problem. A proposed solution must consist of—
   (i) A change in the airplane or engine type design;
   (ii) A change in a manufacturing process;
   (iii) A change in an operating or maintenance procedure; or
   (iv) Any other solution acceptable to the FAA.

2. If an accident investigation or service difficulty report shows that a product or article manufactured under this part is unsafe because of a manufacturing or design data defect, the holder of the production approval for that product or article must, upon request of the FAA, report to the FAA the results of its investigation and any action taken or proposed by the holder of that production approval to correct that defect. If action is required to correct the defect in an existing product or article, the holder of that production approval must send the data necessary for issuing an appropriate airworthiness directive to the appropriate aircraft certification office.

(b) § 21.4 ETOPS reporting requirements.

(i) The applicable product and article identification information required by part 45 of this chapter;
(ii) Identification of the system involved; and
(iii) Nature of the failure, malfunction, or defect.

If an accident investigation or service difficulty report shows that a product or article manufactured under this part is unsafe because of a manufacturing or design data defect, the holder of the production approval for that product or article must, upon request of the FAA, report to the FAA the results of its investigation and any action taken or proposed by the holder of that production approval to correct that defect. If action is required to correct the defect in an existing product or article, the holder of that production approval must send the data necessary for issuing an appropriate airworthiness directive to the appropriate aircraft certification office.

§ 21.4 ETOPS reporting requirements.

(a) Early ETOPS: reporting, tracking, and resolving problems. The holder of a type certificate for an airplane-engine combination approved using the Early ETOPS method specified in part 25, Appendix K, of this chapter must use a system for reporting, tracking, and resolving each problem resulting in one of the occurrences specified in paragraph (a)(6) of this section.

1. The system must identify how the type certificate holder will promptly identify problems, report them to the responsible FAA aircraft certification office, and propose a solution to the FAA to resolve each problem. A proposed solution must consist of—
   (i) A change in the airplane or engine type design;
   (ii) A change in a manufacturing process;
   (iii) A change in an operating or maintenance procedure; or
   (iv) Any other solution acceptable to the FAA.

2. If an accident investigation or service difficulty report shows that a product or article manufactured under this part is unsafe because of a manufacturing or design data defect, the holder of the production approval for that product or article must, upon request of the FAA, report to the FAA the results of its investigation and any action taken or proposed by the holder of that production approval to correct that defect. If action is required to correct the defect in an existing product or article, the holder of that production approval must send the data necessary for issuing an appropriate airworthiness directive to the appropriate aircraft certification office.

3. For two-engine airplanes, the system must be in place for the first 250,000 world fleet engine-hours for the approved airplane-engine combination.

4. For an airplane with more than two engines, the system must be in place for the first 250,000 world fleet engine-hours for the approved airplane-engine combination and after that until—
   (i) The world fleet 12-month rolling average IFSD rate is at or below the rate required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section; and
   (ii) The FAA determines that the rate is stable.

5. For an airplane-engine combination that is a derivative of an airplane-engine combination previously approved for ETOPS, the system need only address those problems specified in the following table, provided the type certificate holder obtains prior authorization from the FAA:

   If the change does not require a new airplane type certificate and . . . Then the Problem Tracking and Resolution System must address . . .
   (i) Requires a new engine type certificate ..........................
   (ii) Does not require a new engine type certificate .............
   
   All problems applicable to the new engine installation, and for the remainder of the airplane, problems in changed systems only.
   Problems in changed systems only.

6. The type certificate holder must identify the sources and content of data that it will use for its system. The data must be adequate to evaluate the specific cause of any in-service problem reportable under this section or § 21.3(c) that could affect the safety of ETOPS.

7. In implementing this system, the type certificate holder must report the following occurrences:
   (i) IFSDs, except planned IFSDs performed for flight training.
   (ii) For two-engine airplanes, IFSD rates.
   (iii) Inability to control an engine or obtain desired thrust or power.
   (iv) Precautionary thrust or power reductions.
   (v) Degraded ability to start an engine in flight.
   (vi) Inadvertent fuel loss or unavailability, or uncorrectable fuel imbalance in flight.
   (vii) Turn backs or diversions for failures, malfunctions, or defects associated with an ETOPS group 1 significant system.
(viii) Loss of any power source for an ETOPS group 1 significant system, including any power source designed to provide backup power for that system.

(ix) Any event that would jeopardize the safe flight and landing of the airplane on an ETOPS flight.

(x) Any unscheduled engine removal for a condition that could result in one of the reportable occurrences listed in this paragraph.

(b) Reliability of two-engine airplanes—

(1) Reporting of two-engine airplane in-service reliability. The holder of a type certificate for an airplane approved for ETOPS and the holder of a type certificate for an engine installed on an airplane approved for ETOPS must report monthly to their respective FAA type certificate holding office on the reliability of the world fleet of those airplanes and engines. The report provided by both the airplane and engine type certificate holders must address each airplane-engine combination approved for ETOPS. The FAA may approve quarterly reporting if the airplane-engine combination demonstrates an IFSD rate at or below those specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section for a period acceptable to the FAA. This reporting may be combined with the reporting required by §21.3. The responsible type certificate holder must investigate any cause of an IFSD resulting from an occurrence attributable to the design of its product and report the results of that investigation to its FAA office responsible for administering its type certificate. Reporting must include:

(i) Engine IFSDs, except planned IFSDs performed for flight training.

(ii) The world fleet 12-month rolling average IFSD rates for all causes, except planned IFSDs performed for flight training.

(iii) ETOPS fleet utilization, including a list of operators, their ETOPS diversion time authority, flight hours, and cycles.

(2) World fleet IFSD rate for two-engine airplanes. The holder of a type certificate for an airplane approved for ETOPS and the holder of a type certificate for an engine installed on an airplane approved for ETOPS must issue service information to the operators of those airplanes and engines, as appropriate, to maintain the world fleet 12-month rolling average IFSD rate at or below the following levels:

(i) A rate of 0.05 per 1,000 world-fleet engine-hours for an airplane-engine combination approved for up to and including 120-minute ETOPS. When all ETOPS operators have complied with the corrective actions required in the configuration, maintenance and procedures (CMP) document as a condition for ETOPS approval, the rate to be maintained is at or below 0.02 per 1,000 world-fleet engine-hours.

(ii) A rate of 0.02 per 1,000 world-fleet engine-hours for an airplane-engine combination approved for up to and including 180-minute ETOPS, including airplane-engine combinations approved for 207-minute ETOPS in the North Pacific operating area under appendix P, section I, paragraph (h), of part 121 of this chapter.

(iii) A rate of 0.01 per 1,000 world-fleet engine-hours for an airplane-engine combination approved for ETOPS beyond 180 minutes, excluding airplane-engine combinations approved for 207-minute ETOPS in the North Pacific operating area under appendix P, section I, paragraph (h), of part 121 of this chapter.

§ 21.9 Replacement and modification articles.

(a) If a person knows, or should know, that a replacement or modification article is reasonably likely to be installed on a type-certificated product, the person may not produce that article unless it is—

(1) Produced under a type certificate; (2) New aircraft engines or propellers imported under the provisions of §21.500.


§ 21.7 Continued airworthiness and safety improvements for transport category airplanes.

(a) On or after December 10, 2007, the holder of a design approval and an applicant for a design approval must comply with the applicable continued airworthiness and safety improvement requirements of part 26 of this subchapter.

(b) For new transport category airplanes manufactured under the authority of the FAA, the holder or licensee of a type certificate must meet the applicable continued airworthiness and safety improvement requirements specified in part 26 of this subchapter for new production airplanes. Those requirements only apply if the FAA has jurisdiction over the organization responsible for final assembly of the airplane.

§ 21.11

(2) Produced under an FAA production approval;
(3) A standard part (such as a nut or bolt) manufactured in compliance with a government or established industry specification;
(4) A commercial part as defined in § 21.1 of this part;
(5) Produced by an owner or operator for maintaining or altering that owner or operator’s product; or
(6) Fabricated by an appropriately rated certificate holder with a quality system, and consumed in the repair or alteration of a product or article in accordance with part 43 of this chapter.

(b) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) of this section, a person who produces a replacement or modification article for sale may not represent that part as suitable for installation on a type-certificated product.

(c) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) of this section, a person may not sell or represent an article as suitable for installation on an aircraft type-certificated under §§ 21.25(a)(2) or 21.27 unless that article—
(1) Was declared surplus by the U.S. Armed Forces, and
(2) Was intended for use on that aircraft model by the U.S. Armed Forces.

§ 21.13 Eligibility.

Any interested person may apply for a type certificate.

§ 21.15 Application for type certificate.

(a) An application for a type certificate is made on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Administrator and is submitted to the appropriate Aircraft Certification Office.

(b) An application for an aircraft type certificate must be accompanied by a three-view drawing of that aircraft and available preliminary basic data.

(c) An application for an aircraft engine type certificate must be accompanied by a description of the engine design features, the engine operating characteristics, and the proposed engine operating limitations.

§ 21.16 Special conditions.

If the Administrator finds that the airworthiness regulations of this subchapter do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for an aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller because of a novel or unusual design feature of the aircraft, aircraft engine or propeller, he prescribes special conditions and amendments thereto for the product. The special conditions are issued in accordance with Part 11 of this chapter and contain such safety standards for the aircraft, aircraft engine or propeller as the Administrator finds necessary to establish a level of...
§ 21.17 Designation of applicable regulations.

(a) Except as provided in §§23.2, 25.2, 27.2, 29.2, and in parts 26, 34 and 36 of this subchapter, an applicant for a type certificate must show that the aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller concerned meets—

(1) The applicable requirements of this subchapter that are effective on the date of application for that certificate unless—

(i) Otherwise specified by the Administrator; or

(ii) Compliance with later effective amendments is elected or required under this section; and

(2) Any special conditions prescribed by the Administrator.

(b) For special classes of aircraft, including the engines and propellers installed thereon (e.g., gliders, airships, and other nonconventional aircraft), for which airworthiness standards have not been issued under this subchapter, the applicable requirements will be the portions of those other airworthiness requirements contained in Parts 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 found by the Administrator to be appropriate for the aircraft and applicable to a specific type design, or such airworthiness criteria as the Administrator may find provide an equivalent level of safety to those parts.

(c) An application for type certification of a transport category aircraft is effective for 5 years and an application for any other type certificate is effective for 3 years, unless an applicant shows at the time of application that his product requires a longer period of time for design, development, and testing, and the Administrator approves a longer period.

(d) In a case where a type certificate has not been issued, or it is clear that a type certificate will not be issued, within the time limit established under paragraph (c) of this section, the applicant may—

(1) File a new application for a type certificate and comply with all the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section applicable to an original application; or

(2) File for an extension of the original application and comply with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this subchapter that were effective on a date, to be selected by the applicant, not earlier than the date which precedes the date of issue of the type certificate by the time limit established under paragraph (c) of this section for the original application.

(e) If an applicant elects to comply with an amendment to this subchapter that is effective after the filing of the application for a type certificate, he must also comply with any other amendment that the Administrator finds is directly related.

(f) For primary category aircraft, the requirements are:

(1) The applicable airworthiness requirements contained in parts 23, 27, 31, 33, and 35 of this subchapter, or such other airworthiness criteria as the Administrator may find appropriate and applicable to the specific design and intended use and provide a level of safety acceptable to the Administrator.

(2) The noise standards of part 36 applicable to primary category aircraft.

§ 21.19 Changes requiring a new type certificate.

Each person who proposes to change a product must apply for a new type certificate if the Administrator finds that the proposed change in design, power, thrust, or weight is so extensive that a substantially complete investigation of compliance with the applicable regulations is required.

[Doc. No. 28903, 65 FR 36265, June 7, 2000]
§ 21.20 Compliance with applicable requirements.

The applicant for a type certificate, including an amended or supplemental type certificate, must—

(a) Show compliance with all applicable requirements and must provide the FAA the means by which such compliance has been shown; and

(b) Provide a statement certifying that the applicant has complied with the applicable requirements.


Effective Date Note: By Doc. No. FAA-2006-25877, 74 FR 53385, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.20 was added, effective Apr. 14, 2010. This effective date was postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.21 Issue of type certificate: normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, and transport category aircraft; manned free balloons; special classes of aircraft; aircraft engines; propellers.

An applicant is entitled to a type certificate for an aircraft in the normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category, or for a manned free balloon, special class of aircraft, or an aircraft engine or propeller, if—

(a) The product qualifies under §21.27; or

(b) The applicant submits the type design, test reports, and computations necessary to show that the product to be certificated meets the applicable airworthiness, aircraft noise, fuel venting, and exhaust emission requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations and any special conditions prescribed by the Administrator, and the Administrator finds—

(1) Upon examination of the type design, and after completing all tests and inspections, that the type design and the product meet the applicable noise, fuel venting, and emissions requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and further finds that they meet the applicable airworthiness requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations or that any airworthiness provisions not complied with are compensated for by factors that provide an equivalent level of safety; and

(2) For an aircraft, that no feature or characteristic makes it unsafe for the category in which certification is requested.


Effective Date Note: By Amdt. 21-92, 74 FR 53385, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.21 was amended by removing the words “the Federal Aviation Regulations” and adding in their place the words “this subchapter” wherever they appear, effective Apr. 14, 2010. This amendment was subsequently postponed to become effective Apr. 16, 2011, at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.23 [Reserved]

§ 21.24 Issuance of type certificate: primary category aircraft.

(a) The applicant is entitled to a type certificate for an aircraft in the primary category if—

(1) The aircraft—

(i) Is unpowered; is an airplane powered by a single, naturally aspirated engine with a 61-knot or less V\(_{\text{so}}\) stall speed as defined in §23.49; or is a rotorcraft with a 6-pound per square foot main rotor disc loading limitation, under sea level standard day conditions;

(ii) Weighs not more than 2,700 pounds; or, for seaplanes, not more than 3,375 pounds;

(iii) Has a maximum seating capacity of not more than four persons, including the pilot; and

(iv) Has an unpressurized cabin.

(2) The applicant has submitted—

(i) Except as provided by paragraph (c) of this section, a statement, in a form and manner acceptable to the Administrator, certifying that: the applicant has completed the engineering analysis necessary to demonstrate compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements; the applicant has conducted appropriate flight, structural, propulsion, and systems tests necessary to show that the aircraft, its components, and its equipment are reliable and function properly; the type design complies with the airworthiness standards and noise requirements established for the aircraft under §21.17(f); and no feature or characteristic makes it unsafe for its intended use;
 statistical airworthiness standards.

(ii) The flight manual required by § 21.5(b), including any information re-

quired to be furnished by the applicable airworthiness standards;

(iii) Instructions for continued air-

worthiness in accordance with § 21.50(b); and

(iv) A report that summarizes how

compliance with each provision of the type certification basis was deter-

mined; lists the specific documents in which the type certification data infor-

mation is provided; lists all necessary drawings and documents used to define

the type design; and lists all the engineering reports on tests and computa-

tions that the applicant must retain and make available under § 21.49 to sub-

stantiate compliance with the applicable airworthiness standards.

(3) The Administrator finds that—

(i) The aircraft complies with those

applicable airworthiness requirements approved under § 21.17(f) of this part;

and

(ii) The aircraft has no feature or characteristic that makes it unsafe for

its intended use.

(b) An applicant may include a spe-

cial inspection and preventive mainte-

nance program as part of the aircraft’s type design or supplemental type de-

sign.

(c) For aircraft manufactured outside

of the United States in a country with which the United States has a bilateral

airworthiness agreement for the ac-

ceptance of these aircraft, and from

which the aircraft is to be imported

into the United States—

(1) The statement required by para-

graph (a)(2)(i) of this section must be

made by the civil airworthiness au-

thority of the exporting country; and

(2) The required manuals, placards, listings, instrument markings, and
documents required by paragraphs (a)
and (b) of this section must be sub-
mitted in English.

[Doc. No. 5085, 29 FR 14564, Oct. 24, 1964, as
amended by Amdt. 21–42, 40 FR 1033, Jan. 6,
1975]

§ 21.27 Issue of type certificate: sur-

plus aircraft of the Armed Forces.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph
(b) of this section an applicant is enti-
tled to a type certificate for an aircraft in the normal, utility, acrobatic, com-
muter, or transport category that was
designed and constructed in the United
States, accepted for operational use, and declared surplus by, an Armed
Force of the United States, and that is shown to comply with the applicable
certification requirements in para-

graph (f) of this section.

(b) An applicant is entitled to a type
certificate for a surplus aircraft of the Armed Forces of the United States

that is a counterpart of a previously
type certificated civil aircraft, if he

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§ 21.29 14 CFR Ch. I (1–1–11 Edition)

shows compliance with the regulations governing the original civil aircraft type certificate.

(c) Aircraft engines, propellers, and their related accessories installed in surplus Armed Forces aircraft, for which a type certificate is sought under this section, will be approved for use on those aircraft if the applicant shows that on the basis of the previous military qualifications, acceptance, and service record, the product provides substantially the same level of airworthiness as would be provided if the engines or propellers were type certificated under part 33 or 35 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.

(d) The Administrator may relieve an applicant from strict compliance with a specific provision of the applicable requirements in paragraph (f) of this section, if the Administrator finds that the method of compliance proposed by the applicant provides substantially the same level of airworthiness and that strict compliance with those regulations would impose a severe burden on the applicant. The Administrator may use experience that was satisfactory to an Armed Force of the United States in making such a determination.

(e) The Administrator may require an applicant to comply with special conditions and later requirements than those in paragraphs (c) and (f) of this section, if the Administrator finds that compliance with the listed regulations would not ensure an adequate level of airworthiness for the aircraft.

(f) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section, an applicant for a type certificate under this section must comply with the appropriate regulations listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of aircraft</th>
<th>Date accepted for operational use by the Armed Forces of the United States</th>
<th>Regulations that apply¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small turbine engine-powered airplanes</td>
<td>After May 15, 1956</td>
<td>CAR Part 3, or FAR Part 23.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large reciprocating-engine powered airplanes</td>
<td>After Oct. 1, 1959</td>
<td>CAR Part 3 or FAR Part 23.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotorcraft with maximum certificated takeoff weight</td>
<td>After Aug. 25, 1955</td>
<td>CAR Part 4b or FAR Part 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000 pounds or less</td>
<td>Before Oct. 2, 1959</td>
<td>CAR Part 6, as effective Oct. 1, 1959.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6,000 pounds</td>
<td>After Oct. 1, 1959</td>
<td>CAR Part 6, or FAR Part 27.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Where no specific date is listed, the applicable regulations are those in effect on the date that the first aircraft of the particular model was accepted for operational use by the Armed Forces.


Effective Date Note: By Amdt. 21–92, 74 FR 53396, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.27 was amended by removing the words “the Federal Aviation Regulations” in paragraph (c) and adding, in their place, the words “this subchapter”; and by removing the word “FAR” from each place it appears in the table in paragraph (f) and adding in its place the words “14 CFR”, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of these amendments was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9096, Mar. 1, 2010.


(a) A type certificate may be issued for a product that is manufactured in a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement for the acceptance of these products for export and import and that is to be imported into the United States if—
(1) The country in which the product was manufactured certifies that the product has been examined, tested, and found to meet—
   (i) The applicable aircraft noise, fuel venting and exhaust emissions requirements of this subchapter as designated in §21.17, or the applicable aircraft noise, fuel venting and exhaust emissions requirements of the country in which the product was manufactured, and any other requirements the Administrator may prescribe to provide noise, fuel venting and exhaust emission levels no greater than those provided by the applicable aircraft noise, fuel venting, and exhaust emission requirements of this subchapter as designated in §21.17; and
   (ii) The applicable airworthiness requirements of this subchapter as designated in §21.17, or the applicable airworthiness requirements of the country in which the product was manufactured and any other requirements the Administrator may prescribe to provide a level of safety equivalent to that provided by the applicable airworthiness requirements of this subchapter as designated in §21.17.

(2) The applicant has submitted the technical data, concerning aircraft noise and airworthiness, respecting the product required by the Administrator; and

(3) The manuals, placards, listings, and instrument markings required by the applicable airworthiness (and noise, where applicable) requirements are presented in the English language.

(b) A product type certificated under this section is considered to be type certificated under the noise standards of part 36, and the fuel venting and exhaust emission standards of part 34, of the Federal Aviation Regulations where compliance therewith is certified under paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, and under the airworthiness standards of that part of the Federal Aviation Regulations with which compliance is certified under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section or to which an equivalent level of safety is certified under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section.

§ 21.33 Inspection and tests.

(a) Each applicant must allow the Administrator to make any inspection and any flight and ground test necessary to determine compliance with the applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations. However, unless otherwise authorized by the Administrator—

(1) No aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or part thereof may be presented to the Administrator for test unless compliance with paragraphs (b)(2) through (b)(4) of this section has been shown for that aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or part thereof; and

(2) No change may be made to an aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or part thereof between the time that compliance with paragraphs (b)(2) through (b)(4) of this section is shown for that aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller, or part thereof and the time that it is presented to the Administrator for test.

(b) Each applicant must make all inspections and tests necessary to determine—

(1) Compliance with the applicable airworthiness, aircraft noise, fuel venting, and exhaust emission requirements;

(2) That materials and products conform to the specifications in the type design;

(3) That parts of the products conform to the drawings in the type design; and

(4) That the manufacturing processes, construction and assembly conform to those specified in the type design.

§ 21.35 Flight tests.

(a) Each applicant for an aircraft type certificate (other than under §§21.24 through 21.29) must make the tests listed in paragraph (b) of this section. Before making the tests the applicant must show—

(1) Compliance with the applicable structural requirements of this subchapter;

(2) Completion of necessary ground inspections and tests;

(3) That the aircraft conforms with the type design; and

(4) That the Administrator received a flight test report from the applicant (signed, in the case of aircraft to be certificated under Part 25 [New] of this chapter, by the applicant’s test pilot) containing the results of his tests.

(b) Upon showing compliance with paragraph (a) of this section, the applicant must make all flight tests that the Administrator finds necessary—
(1) To determine compliance with the applicable requirements of this subchapter; and
(2) For aircraft to be certificated under this subchapter, except gliders and except airplanes of 6,000 lbs. or less maximum certificated weight that are to be certificated under Part 23 of this chapter, to determine whether there is reasonable assurance that the aircraft, its components, and its equipment are reliable and function properly.

(c) Each applicant must, if practicable, make the tests prescribed in paragraph (b)(2) of this section upon the aircraft that was used to show compliance with—
(1) Paragraph (b)(1) of this section; and
(2) For rotorcraft, the rotor drive endurance tests prescribed in §27.923 or §29.923 of this chapter, as applicable.

(d) Each applicant must show for each flight test (except in a glider or a manned free balloon) that adequate provision is made for the flight test crew for emergency egress and the use of parachutes.

(e) Except in gliders and manned free balloons, an applicant must discontinue flight tests under this section until he shows that corrective action has been taken, whenever—
(1) The applicant’s test pilot is unable or unwilling to make any of the required flight tests; or
(2) Items of noncompliance with requirements are found that may make additional test data meaningless or that would make further testing unduly hazardous.

(f) The flight tests prescribed in paragraph (b)(2) of this section must include—
(1) For aircraft incorporating turbine engines of a type not previously used in a type certificated aircraft, at least 300 hours of operation with a full complement of engines that conform to a type certificate; and
(2) For all other aircraft, at least 150 hours of operation.


Each applicant for a normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category aircraft type certificate must provide a person holding an appropriate pilot certificate to make the flight tests required by this part.


§ 21.39 Flight test instrument calibration and correction report.

(a) Each applicant for a normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category aircraft type certificate must submit a report to the Administrator showing the computations and tests required in connection with the calibration of instruments used for test purposes and in the correction of test results to standard atmospheric conditions.

(b) Each applicant must allow the Administrator to conduct any flight tests that he finds necessary to check the accuracy of the report submitted under paragraph (a) of this section.


§ 21.41 Type certificate.

Each type certificate is considered to include the type design, the operating limitations, the certificate data sheet, the applicable regulations of this subchapter with which the Administrator records compliance, and any other conditions or limitations prescribed for the product in this subchapter.

§ 21.43 Location of manufacturing facilities.

Except as provided in §21.29, the Administrator does not issue a type certificate if the manufacturing facilities for the product are located outside of the United States, unless the Administrator finds that the location of the manufacturer’s facilities places no undue burden on the FAA in administering applicable airworthiness requirements.

§ 21.45 Privileges.

The holder or licensee of a type certificate for a product may—
§ 21.47 Transferability.

A type certificate may be transferred to or made available to third persons by licensing agreements. Each grantor shall, within 30 days after the transfer of a certificate or execution or termination of a licensing agreement, notify in writing the appropriate Aircraft Certification Office. The notification must state the name and address of the transferee or licensee, date of the transaction, and in the case of a licensing agreement, the extent of authority granted the licensee.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 35512, Sept. 24, 2009, §21.47 was amended by removing the words "or certified" from paragraph (b) and adding in their place the words "on certified"; and by removing the reference "§21.133 through 21.163" from paragraph (c) and adding in its place the words "subpart G of this part", effective Apr. 14, 2010. This effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.49 Availability.

The holder of a type certificate shall make the certificate available for examination upon the request of the Administrator or the National Transportation Safety Board.


§ 21.50 Instructions for continued airworthiness and manufacturer’s maintenance manuals having airworthiness limitations sections.

(a) The holder of a type certificate for a rotorcraft for which a Rotorcraft Maintenance Manual containing an “Airworthiness Limitations” section has been issued under §27.1529 (a)(2) or §29.1529 (a)(2) of this chapter, and who obtains approval of changes to any replacement time, inspection interval, or related procedure in that section of the manual, shall make those changes available upon request to any operator of the same type of rotorcraft.

(b) The holder of a design approval, including either the type certificate or supplemental type certificate for an aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller for which application was made after January 28, 1981, shall furnish at least one set of complete Instructions for Continued Airworthiness, to the owner of each type aircraft, aircraft engine,
or propeller upon its delivery, or upon issuance of the first standard airworthiness certificate for the affected aircraft, whichever occurs later. The Instructions must be prepared in accordance with §§ 23.1529, 25.1529, 27.1529, 29.1529, 31.82, 33.4, 35.4, or part 26 of this subchapter, or as specified in the applicable airworthiness criteria for special classes of aircraft defined in § 21.17(b), as applicable. Thereafter, the holder of a design approval must make those instructions available to any other person required by this chapter to comply with any of the terms of those instructions. In addition, changes to the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness shall be made available to any person required by this chapter to comply with any of those instructions.

(a) To designate commercial parts, the holder of a design approval, in a manner acceptable to the FAA, must submit:

(1) A Commercial Parts List;

(2) Data for each part on the List showing that:

(i) The failure of the commercial part, as installed in the product, would not degrade the level of safety of the product; and

(ii) The part is produced only under the commercial part manufacturer’s specification and marked only with the commercial part manufacturer’s markings; and

(3) Any other data necessary for the FAA to approve the List.

§ 21.53 Statement of conformity.

(a) Each applicant must submit a statement of conformity (FAA Form 317) to the Administrator for each aircraft engine and propeller presented to the Administrator for type certification. This statement of conformity must include a statement that the aircraft engine or propeller conforms to the type design therefor.

(b) Each applicant must submit a statement of conformity to the Administrator for each aircraft or part thereof presented to the Administrator for tests. This statement of conformity must include a statement that the applicant has complied with § 21.33(a) (unless otherwise authorized under that paragraph).


Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21–92, 74 FR 53385, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.53 was amended by revising paragraph (a), effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.53 Statement of conformity.

(a) Each applicant must submit a statement of conformity (FAA Form 317) to the Administrator for each aircraft engine and propeller presented to the Administrator for type certification. This statement of conformity must include a statement that the aircraft engine or propeller conforms to the type design therefor.

(b) Each applicant must submit a statement of conformity to the Administrator for each aircraft or part thereof presented to the Administrator for tests. This statement of conformity must include a statement that the applicant has complied with § 21.33(a) (unless otherwise authorized under that paragraph).

§ 21.55 Statement of conformity.

(a) Each applicant must provide, in a form and manner acceptable to the FAA, a statement that each aircraft engine or propeller presented for type certification conforms to its type design.

§ 21.55 Responsibility of type certificate holders to provide written licensing agreements.

A type certificate holder who allows a person to use the type certificate to manufacture a new aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller must provide that person with a written licensing agreement acceptable to the FAA.


Subpart C—Provisional Type Certificates

SOURCE: Docket No. 5085, 29 FR 14566, Oct. 24, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.71 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes—

(a) Procedural requirements for the issue of provisional type certificates, amendments to provisional type certificates, and provisional amendments to type certificates; and

(b) Rules governing the holders of those certificates.

§ 21.73 Eligibility.

(a) Any manufacturer of aircraft manufactured within the United States who is a United States citizen may apply for Class I or Class II provisional type certificates, for amendments to provisional type certificates held by him, and for provisional amendments to type certificates held by him.

(b) Any manufacturer of aircraft manufactured in a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement for the acceptance of those aircraft for export and import may apply for a Class II provisional type certificate, for amendments to provisional type certificates held by him, and for provisional amendments to type certificates held by him.

(c) An aircraft engine manufacturer who is a United States citizen and who has altered a type certificated aircraft by installing different type certificated aircraft engines manufactured by him within the United States may apply for a Class I provisional type certificate for the aircraft, and for amendments to Class I provisional type certificates held by him, if the basic aircraft, before alteration, was type certificated in the normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. 21–92, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.73 was amended by removing the words “Any manufacturer of aircraft manufactured in a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement” and adding in their place the words “Any manufacturer of aircraft in a State of Manufacture subject to the provisions of an agreement with the United States”, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.75 Application.

Applications for provisional type certificates, for amendments thereto, and for provisional amendments to type certificates must be submitted to the Manager of the Aircraft Certification Office for the geographic area in which the applicant is located (or in the case of European, African, Middle East Region, the Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division), and must be accompanied by the pertinent information specified in this subpart.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Doc. No. FAA–2006–25877, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.75 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.75 Application.

Each applicant for a provisional type certificate, for an amendment thereto, or for a provisional amendment to a type certificate must apply to the appropriate aircraft certification office and provide the information required by this subpart.

§ 21.77 Duration.

(a) Unless sooner surrendered, superseded, revoked, or otherwise terminated, provisional type certificates and amendments thereto are effective for the periods specified in this section.
§ 21.83 Requirements for issue and amendment of Class II provisional type certificates.

(a) An applicant who manufactures aircraft within the United States is entitled to the issue or amendment of a Class II provisional type certificate if he shows compliance with this section and the Administrator finds that there is no feature, characteristic, or condition that would make the aircraft unsafe when operated in accordance with the limitations in paragraph (h) of this section, and §§91.317 and 121.207 of this chapter.

(b) An applicant who manufactures aircraft in a country with which the United States has an agreement for the acceptance of those aircraft for export and import is entitled to the issue or amendment of a Class II provisional type certificate if the country in which the aircraft was manufactured certifies
§ 21.85 Provisional amendments to type certificates.

(a) An applicant who manufactures aircraft within the United States is entitled to a provisional amendment to a type certificate if he shows compliance with this section and the Administrator finds that there is no feature, characteristic, or condition that would make the aircraft unsafe when operated under the appropriate limitations contained in this subchapter.

(b) An applicant who manufactures aircraft in a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement for the acceptance of those aircraft for export and import is entitled to a provisional amendment to a type certificate if the country in which the aircraft was manufactured certifies that the applicant has shown compliance with this section, that the aircraft meets the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section and §91.317 and 121.207 of this chapter.

(c) The applicant must apply for an amendment to the type certificate.

(d) The FAA’s official flight test program or the flight test program conducted by the authorities of the country in which the aircraft was manufactured, with respect to the amendment of the type certificate, must be in progress.

(e) The applicant or, in the case of foreign manufactured aircraft, the country in which the aircraft was manufactured, must certify that—

(1) The aircraft has been designed and constructed in accordance with the airworthiness requirements applicable to the issue of the type certificate applied for;

(2) The aircraft substantially complies with the applicable flight characteristic requirements for the type certificate applied for; and

(3) The aircraft can be operated safely under the appropriate operating limitations in this subchapter.

(g) The applicant must submit a report showing that the aircraft has been flown in all maneuvers necessary to show compliance with the flight requirements for the issue of the type certificate and to establish that the aircraft can be operated safely in accordance with the limitations in this subchapter.

(h) The applicant must prepare a provisional aircraft flight manual containing all limitations required for the issue of the type certificate applied for, including limitations on weights, speeds, flight maneuvers, loading, and operation of controls and equipment unless, for each limitation not so established, appropriate operating restrictions are established for the aircraft.

(i) The applicant must establish an inspection and maintenance program for the continued airworthiness of the aircraft.

(j) The applicant must show that a prototype aircraft has been flown for at least 100 hours. In the case of an amendment to a provisional type certificate, the Administrator may reduce the number of required flight hours.

§ 21.91 Applicability.
This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the approval of changes to type certificates.

§ 21.93 Classification of changes in type design.
(a) In addition to changes in type design specified in paragraph (b) of this section, changes in type design are classified as minor and major. A “minor change” is one that has no appreciable effect on the weight, balance, structural strength, reliability, operational characteristics, or other characteristics affecting the airworthiness of the product. All other changes are “major changes” (except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section).

(b) For the purpose of complying with Part 36 of this chapter, and except as provided in paragraphs (b)(2), (b)(3), and (b)(4) of this section, any voluntary change in the type design of an aircraft that may increase the noise levels of that aircraft is an “acoustical change” (in addition to being a minor or major change as classified in paragraph (a) of this section) for the following aircraft:

1. Transport category large airplanes.

2. Jet (Turbojet powered) airplanes (regardless of category). For airplanes to which this paragraph applies, “acoustical changes” do not include changes in type design that are limited to one of the following—

(i) Gear down flight with one or more retractable landing gear down during the entire flight, or

(ii) Spare engine and nacelle carriage external to the skin of the airplane (and return of the pylon or other external mount), or

(iii) Time-limited engine and/or nacelle changes, where the change in type design specifies that the airplane may not be operated for a period of more than 90 days unless compliance with the applicable acoustical change provisions of Part 36 of this chapter is shown for that change in type design.

3. Propeller driven commuter category and small airplanes in the primary, normal, utility, acrobatic, transport, and restricted categories, except for airplanes that are:

1. Designated for “agricultural aircraft operations” (as defined in §137.3 of
§ 21.95 Approval of minor changes in type design.

Minor changes in a type design may be approved under a method acceptable to the Administrator before submitting to the Administrator any substantiating or descriptive data.

§ 21.97 Approval of major changes in type design.

(a) In the case of a major change in type design, the applicant must submit substantiating data and necessary descriptive data for inclusion in the type design.

(b) Approval of a major change in the type design of an aircraft engine is limited to the specific engine configuration upon which the change is made unless the applicant identifies in the necessary descriptive data for inclusion in the type design the other configurations of the same engine type for which approval is requested and shows that the change is compatible with the other configurations.
this subchapter, and provide the FAA the means by which such compliance has been shown; and
(3) Provide a statement certifying that the applicant has complied with the applicable requirements.

§ 21.99 Required design changes.

(a) When an Airworthiness Directive is issued under Part 39 the holder of the type certificate for the product concerned must—
(1) If the Administrator finds that design changes are necessary to correct the unsafe condition of the product, and upon his request, submit appropriate design changes for approval; and
(2) Upon approval of the design changes, make available the descriptive data covering the changes to all operators of products previously certificated under the type certificate.

(b) In a case where there are no current unsafe conditions, but the Administrator or the holder of the type certificate finds through service experience that changes in type design will contribute to the safety of the product, the holder of the type certificate may submit appropriate design changes for approval. Upon approval of the changes, the manufacturer shall make information on the design changes available to all operators of the same type of product.


§ 21.101 Designation of applicable regulations.

(a) An applicant for a change to a type certificate must show that the changed product complies with the airworthiness requirements applicable to the category of the product in effect on the date of the application for the change and with parts 34 and 36 of this chapter. Exceptions are detailed in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (g) of this section, if paragraphs (b)(1), (2), or (3) of this section apply, an applicant may show that the changed product complies with an earlier amendment of a regulation required by paragraph (a) of this section, and of any other regulation the Administrator finds is directly related. However, the earlier amended regulation may not precede either the corresponding regulation incorporated by reference in the type certificate, or any regulation in §§23.2, 25.2, 27.2, or 29.2 of this subchapter that is related to the change. The applicant may show compliance with an earlier amendment of a regulation for any of the following:

(1) A change that the Administrator finds not to be significant. In determining whether a specific change is significant, the Administrator considers the change in context with all previous relevant design changes and all related revisions to the applicable regulations incorporated in the type certificate for the product. Changes that meet one of the following criteria are automatically considered significant:

(i) The general configuration or the principles of construction are not retained.

(ii) The assumptions used for certification of the product to be changed do not remain valid.

(2) Each area, system, component, equipment, or appliance that the Administrator finds is not affected by the change.

(3) Each area, system, component, equipment, or appliance that is affected by the change, for which the Administrator finds that compliance with a regulation described in paragraph (a) of this section would not contribute materially to the level of safety of the changed product or would be impractical.

(c) An applicant for a change to an aircraft (other than a rotorcraft) of 6,000 pounds or less maximum weight, or to a non-turbine rotorcraft of 3,000 pounds or less maximum weight may show that the changed product complies with the regulations incorporated by reference in the type certificate. However, if the Administrator finds that the change is significant in an area, the Administrator may designate compliance with an amendment to the regulation incorporated by reference in the type certificate that applies to the change and any regulation that the Administrator finds that compliance with a regulation described in paragraph (a) of this section would not contribute materially to the level of safety of the changed product or would be impractical.
§ 21.111 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the issue of supplemental type certificates.

§ 21.113 Requirement of supplemental type certificate.

Any person who alters a product by introducing a major change in type design, not great enough to require a new application for a type certificate under § 21.19, shall apply to the Administrator for a supplemental type certificate, except that the holder of a type certificate for the product may apply for amendment of the original type certificate. The application must be made in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Doc. No. FAA-2006-25877, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.113 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

(a) If a person holds the TC for a product and alters that product by introducing a major change in type design that does not require an application for a new TC under §21.19, that person must either apply to the appropriate aircraft certification office for an STC or apply to amend the original type certificate under subpart D of this part.

(b) If a person does not hold the TC for a product and alters that product by introducing a major change in type design that does not require an application for a new TC under §21.19, that person must apply to the appropriate aircraft certification office for an STC.

(c) The application for an STC must be made in a form and manner prescribed by the FAA.
§ 21.115 Applicable requirements.

(a) Each applicant for a supplemental type certificate must show that the altered product meets applicable requirements specified in §21.101 and, in the case of an acoustical change described in §21.93(b), show compliance with the applicable noise requirements of part 36 of this chapter and, in the case of an emissions change described in §21.93(c), show compliance with the applicable fuel venting and exhaust emissions requirements of part 34 of this chapter.

(b) Each applicant for a supplemental type certificate must meet §§21.33 and 21.53 with respect to each change in the type design.


§ 21.117 Issue of supplemental type certificates.

(a) An applicant is entitled to a supplemental type certificate if he meets the requirements of §§21.113 and 21.115.

(b) A supplemental type certificate consists of—

1. The approval by the Administrator of a change in the type design of the product; and

2. The type certificate previously issued for the product.

Effective Date Note: By Amendment 21–92, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.119(c) was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.119 Privileges.

* * * * *

(c) Obtain a production certificate in accordance with the requirements of subpart G of this part for the change in the type design approved by the supplemental type certificate.

§ 21.120 Responsibility of supplemental type certificate holders to provide written permission for alterations.

A supplemental type certificate holder who allows a person to use the supplemental type certificate to alter an aircraft, aircraft engine, or propeller must provide that person with written permission acceptable to the FAA.


Subpart F—Production Under Type Certificate Only

SOURCE: Docket No. 5085, 29 FR 14568, Oct. 24, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.121 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes rules for production under a type certificate only.

§ 21.122 Location of or change to manufacturing facilities.

(a) An applicant may obtain a production certificate for manufacturing facilities located outside of the United States if the FAA finds no undue burden in administering the applicable requirements of Title 49 U.S.C. and this subchapter.

(b) The type certificate holder must obtain FAA approval before making any changes to the location of any of its manufacturing facilities.

(c) The type certificate holder must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change to the manufacturing facilities that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its product or article.
§ 21.123 Production under type certificate.

Each manufacturer of a product being manufactured under a type certificate only shall—

(a) Make each product available for inspection by the Administrator;

(b) Maintain at the place of manufacture the technical data and drawings necessary for the Administrator to determine whether the product and its parts conform to the type design;

(c) Except as otherwise authorized by the Aircraft Certification Directorate Manager for the geographic area which the manufacturer is located, for products manufactured more than 6 months after the date of issue of the type certificate, establish and maintain an approved production inspection system that insures that each product conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation; and

(d) Upon the establishment of the approved production inspection system (as required by paragraph (c) of this section) submit to the Administrator a manual that describes that system and the means for making the determinations required by § 21.125(b).


§ 21.125 Production inspection system: Materials Review Board.

(a) Each manufacturer required to establish a production inspection system by § 21.123(c) shall—

(1) Establish a Materials Review Board (to include representatives from the inspection and engineering departments) and materials review procedures; and

(2) Maintain complete records of Materials Review Board action for at least two years.

(b) The production inspection system required in § 21.123(c) must provide a means for determining at least the following:

(1) Incoming materials, and bought or subcontracted parts, used in the finished product must be as specified in the type design data, or must be suitable equivalents.

(2) Incoming materials, and bought or subcontracted parts, must be properly identified if their physical or chemical properties cannot be readily and accurately determined.

(3) Materials subject to damage and deterioration must be suitably stored and adequately protected.

(4) Processes affecting the quality and safety of the finished product must
be accomplished in accordance with acceptable industry or United States specifications.

(5) Parts and components in process must be inspected for conformity with the type design data at points in production where accurate determinations can be made.

(6) Current design drawings must be readily available to manufacturing and inspection personnel, and used when necessary.

(7) Design changes, including material substitutions, must be controlled and approved before being incorporated in the finished product.

(8) Rejected materials and parts must be segregated and identified in a manner that precludes installation in the finished product.

(9) Materials and parts that are withheld because of departures from design data or specifications, and that are to be considered for installation in the finished product, must be processed through the Materials Review Board. Those materials and parts determined by the Board to be serviceable must be properly identified and reinspected if rework or repair is necessary. Materials and parts rejected by the Board must be marked and disposed of to ensure that they are not incorporated in the final product.

(10) Inspection records must be maintained, identified with the completed product where practicable, and retained by the manufacturer for at least two years.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. 21–92, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.125 was removed and reserved, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.


(a) Each person manufacturing aircraft under a type certificate only shall establish an approved production flight test procedure and flight check-off form, and in accordance with that form, flight test each aircraft produced.

(b) Each production flight test procedure must include the following:

(1) An operational check of the trim, controllability, or other flight characteristics to establish that the production aircraft has the same range and degree of control as the prototype aircraft.

(2) An operational check of each part or system operated by the crew while in flight to establish that, during flight, instrument readings are within normal range.

(3) A determination that all instruments are properly marked, and that all placards and required flight manuals are installed after flight test.

(4) A check of the operational characteristics of the aircraft on the ground.

(5) A check on any other items peculiar to the aircraft being tested that can best be done during the ground or flight operation of the aircraft.


(a) Each person manufacturing aircraft engines under a type certificate only shall subject each engine (except rocket engines for which the manufacturer must establish a sampling technique) to an acceptable test run that includes the following:

(1) Break-in runs that include a determination of fuel and oil consumption and a determination of power characteristics at rated maximum continuous power or thrust and, if applicable, at rated takeoff power or thrust.

(2) At least five hours of operation at rated maximum continuous power or thrust. For engines having a rated takeoff power or thrust higher than rated maximum continuous power or thrust, the five-hour run must include 30 minutes at rated takeoff power or thrust.

(b) The test runs required by paragraph (a) of this section may be made with the engine appropriately mounted and using current types of power and thrust measuring equipment.


Each person manufacturing propellers under a type certificate only shall give each variable pitch propeller an acceptable functional test to determine if it operates properly throughout the normal range of operation.
§ 21.130 Statement of conformity.

Each holder or licensee of a type certificate only, for a product manufactured in the United States, shall, upon the initial transfer by him of the ownership of such product manufactured under that type certificate, or upon application for the original issue of an aircraft airworthiness certificate or an aircraft engine or propeller airworthiness approval tag (FAA Form 8130–3), give the Administrator a statement of conformity (FAA Form 317). This statement must be signed by an authorized person who holds a responsible position in the manufacturing organization, and must include—

(a) For each product, a statement that the product conforms to its type certificate and is in condition for safe operation;

(b) For each aircraft, a statement that the aircraft has been flight checked; and

(c) For each aircraft engine or variable pitch propeller, a statement that the engine or propeller has been subjected by the manufacturer to a final operational check.

However, in the case of a product manufactured for an Armed Force of the United States, a statement of conformity is not required if the product has been accepted by that Armed Force.

(Amdt. 21–25, 34 FR 14068, Sept. 5, 1969)

Effective Date Note: By Docket No. FAA-2006-25877, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, subpart G of part 21 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the new subpart G follows the text of this subpart.

§ 21.131 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the issue of production certificates and rules governing the holders of those certificates.

§ 21.133 Eligibility.

(a) Any person may apply for a production certificate if he holds, for the product concerned, a—

(1) Current type certificate;

(2) Right to the benefits of that type certificate under a licensing agreement; or

(3) Supplemental type certificate.

(b) Each application for a production certificate must be made in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator.

§ 21.135 Requirements for issuance.

An applicant is entitled to a production certificate if the Administrator finds, after examination of the supporting data and after inspection of the organization and production facilities, that the applicant has complied with §§21.139 and 21.143.

§ 21.137 Location of manufacturing facilities.

The Administrator does not issue a production certificate if the manufacturer finds, after examination of the supporting data and after inspection of the organization and production facilities, that the applicant has complied with §§21.139 and 21.143.

§ 21.139 Quality control.

The applicant must show that he has established and can maintain a quality control system for any product, for which he requests a production certificate, so that each article will meet the design provisions of the pertinent type certificate.
§ 21.143 Quality control data requirements; prime manufacturer.

(a) Each applicant must submit, for approval, data describing the inspection and test procedures necessary to ensure that each article produced conforms to the type design and is in a condition for safe operation, including as applicable—

(1) A statement describing assigned responsibilities and delegated authority of the quality control organization, together with a chart indicating the functional relationship of the quality control organization to management and to other organizational components, and indicating the chain of authority and responsibility within the quality control organization;

(2) A description of inspection procedures for raw materials, purchased items, and parts and assemblies produced by manufacturers’ suppliers including methods used to ensure acceptable quality of parts and assemblies that cannot be completely inspected for conformity and quality when delivered to the prime manufacturer’s plant;

(3) A description of the methods used for production inspection of individual parts and complete assemblies, including the identification of any special manufacturing processes involved, the means used to control the processes, the final test procedure for the complete product, and, in the case of aircraft, a copy of the manufacturer’s production flight test procedures and checkoff list;

(4) An outline of the materials review system, including the procedure for recording review board decisions and disposing of rejected parts;

(5) An outline of a system for informing company inspectors of current changes in engineering drawings, specifications, and quality control procedures; and

(6) A list or chart showing the location and type of inspection stations.

(b) Each prime manufacturer shall make available to the Administrator information regarding all delegation of authority to suppliers to make major inspections of parts or assemblies for which the prime manufacturer is responsible.


§ 21.147 Changes in quality control system.

After the issue of a production certificate, each change to the quality control system is subject to review by the Administrator. The holder of a production certificate shall immediately notify the Administrator, in writing of any change that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of the product.

§ 21.149 Multiple products.

The Administrator may authorize more than one type certificated product to be manufactured under the terms of one production certificate, if the products have similar production characteristics.

§ 21.151 Production limitation record.

A production limitation record is issued as part of a production certificate. The record lists the type certificate of every product that the applicant is authorized to manufacture under the terms of the production certificate.

§ 21.153 Amendment of the production certificates.

The holder of a production certificate desiring to amend it to add a type certificate or model, or both, must apply therefor in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator. The applicant must comply with the applicable requirements of §§21.139, 21.143, and 21.147.

§ 21.155 Transferability.

A production certificate is not transferable.

§ 21.157 Inspections and tests.

Each holder of a production certificate shall allow the Administrator to make any inspections and tests necessary to determine compliance with the applicable regulations in this subchapter.
§ 21.159 Duration.

A production certificate is effective until surrendered, suspended, revoked, or a termination date is otherwise established by the Administrator, or the location of the manufacturing facility is changed.

§ 21.161 Display.

The holder of a production certificate shall display it prominently in the main office of the factory in which the product concerned is manufactured.

§ 21.163 Privileges.

(a) The holder of a production certificate may—

(1) Obtain an aircraft airworthiness certificate without further showing, except that the Administrator may inspect the aircraft for conformity with the type design; or

(2) In the case of other products, obtain approval for installation on type certificated aircraft.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 147.3 of this chapter, the holder of a production certificate for a primary category aircraft, or for a normal, utility, or acrobatic category aircraft of a type design that is eligible for a special airworthiness certificate in the primary category under § 21.184(c), may—

(1) Conduct training for persons in the performance of a special inspection and preventive maintenance program approved as a part of the aircraft’s type design under § 21.24(b), provided the training is given by a person holding a mechanic certificate with appropriate airframe and powerplant ratings issued under part 65 of this chapter; and

(2) Issue a certificate of competency to persons successfully completing the approved training program, provided the certificate specifies the aircraft make and model to which the certificate applies.


Effective Date Note: By Docket No. FAA-2006-25877, 74 FR 53387, Oct. 16, 2009, subpart G of part 21 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

Subpart G—Production Certificates

§ 21.131 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes—

(a) Procedural requirements for issuing production certificates; and

(b) Rules governing holders of those certificates.

§ 21.132 Eligibility.

Any person may apply for a production certificate if that person holds, for the product concerned—

(a) A current type certificate,

(b) A supplemental type certificate, or

(c) Rights to the benefits of that type certificate or supplemental type certificate under a licensing agreement.

§ 21.133 Application.

Each applicant must apply for a production certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the FAA.

§ 21.135 Organization.

Each applicant for or holder of a production certificate must provide the FAA with a document describing how its organization will ensure compliance with the provisions of this subpart. At a minimum, the document must describe assigned responsibilities and delegated authority, and the functional relationship of those responsible for quality to management and other organizational components.

§ 21.137 Quality system.

Each applicant for or holder of a production certificate must establish and describe in writing a quality system that ensures that
each product and article conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation. This quality system must include:

(a) Design data control. Procedures for controlling design data and subsequent changes to ensure that only current, correct, and approved data is used.

(b) Document control. Procedures for controlling quality system documents and data and subsequent changes to ensure that only current, correct, and approved documents and data are used.

(c) Supplier control. Procedures that—

(1) Ensure that each supplier-furnished product or article conforms to its approved design; and

(2) Require each supplier to report to the production approval holder if a product or article has been released from that supplier and subsequently found not to conform to the applicable design data.

(d) Manufacturing process control. Procedures for controlling manufacturing processes to ensure that each product and article conforms to its approved design.

(e) Inspecting and testing. Procedures for inspections and tests used to ensure that each product and article conforms to its approved design. These procedures must include the following, as applicable:

(1) A flight test of each aircraft produced unless that aircraft will be exported as an unassembled aircraft.

(2) A functional test of each aircraft engine and each propeller produced.

(f) Inspection, measuring, and test equipment control. Procedures to ensure calibration and control of all inspection, measuring, and test equipment used in determining conformity of each product and article to its approved design. Each calibration standard must be traceable to a standard acceptable to the FAA.

(g) Inspection and test status. Procedures for documenting the inspection and test status of products and articles supplied or manufactured to the approved design.

(h) Nonconforming product and article control. (1) Procedures to ensure that only products or articles that conform to their approved design are installed on a type-certified product. These procedures must provide for the identification, documentation, evaluation, segregation, and disposition of nonconforming products and articles. Only authorized individuals may make disposition determinations.

(2) Procedures to ensure that discarded articles are rendered unusable.

(i) Corrective and preventive actions. Procedures for implementing corrective and preventive actions to eliminate the causes of an actual or potential nonconformity to the approved design or nonconformance with the approved quality system.

(j) Handling and storage. Procedures to prevent damage and deterioration of each product and article during handling, storage, preservation, and packaging.

(k) Control of quality records. Procedures for identifying, storing, protecting, retrieving, and retaining quality records. A production approval holder must retain these records for at least 5 years for the products and articles manufactured under the approval and at least 10 years for critical components identified under §45.15(c) of this chapter.

(l) Internal audits. Procedures for planning, conducting, and documenting internal audits to ensure compliance with the approved quality system. The procedures must include reporting results of internal audits to the manager responsible for implementing corrective and preventive actions.

(m) In-service feedback. Procedures for receiving and processing feedback on in-service failures, malfunctions, and defects. These procedures must include a process for assisting the design approval holder to—

(1) Address any in-service problem involving design changes; and

(2) Determine if any changes to the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness are necessary.

(n) Quality escapes. Procedures for identifying, analyzing, and initiating appropriate corrective action for products or articles that have been released from the quality system and that do not conform to the applicable design data or quality system requirements.


Each applicant for or holder of a production certificate must provide a manual describing its quality system to the FAA for approval. The manual must be in the English language and retrievable in a form acceptable to the FAA.

§21.139 Location of or change to manufacturing facilities.

(a) An applicant may obtain a production certificate for manufacturing facilities located outside of the United States if the FAA finds no undue burden in administering the applicable requirements of Title 49 U.S.C. and this subchapter.

(b) The production certificate holder must obtain FAA approval before making any changes to the location of any of its manufacturing facilities.

(c) The production certificate holder must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change to the manufacturing facilities that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its product or article.

§21.140 Inspections and tests.

Each applicant for or holder of a production certificate must allow the FAA to inspect its quality system, facilities, technical...
§ 21.141 Issuance.

The FAA issues a production certificate after finding that the applicant complies with the requirements of this subpart.

§ 21.142 Production limitation record.

The FAA issues a production limitation record as part of a production certificate. The record lists the type certificate number and the model of every product that the production certificate holder is authorized to manufacture.

§ 21.143 Duration.

A production certificate is effective until surrendered, suspended, revoked, or the FAA otherwise establishes a termination date.

§ 21.144 Transferability.

The holder of a production certificate may not transfer the production certificate.

§ 21.145 Privileges.

(a) The holder of a production certificate may—
   (1) Obtain an aircraft airworthiness certificate without further showing, except that the FAA may inspect the aircraft for conformity with the type design; or
   (2) In the case of other products, obtain approval from the FAA for installation on type-certificated aircraft.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of §147.3 of this chapter, the holder of a production certificate for a primary category aircraft, or for a normal, utility, or acrobatic category aircraft of a type design that is eligible for a special airworthiness certificate in the primary category under §21.184(c), may—
   (1) Conduct training for persons in the performance of a special inspection and preventive maintenance program approved as a part of the aircraft’s type design under §21.24(b), provided a person holding a mechanic certificate with appropriate airframe and powerplant ratings issued under part 65 of this chapter gives the training; and
   (2) Issue a certificate of competency to persons successfully completing the approved training program, provided the certificate specifies the aircraft make and model to which the certificate applies.

§ 21.146 Responsibility of holder.

The holder of a production certificate must—
(a) Amend the document required by §21.135 as necessary to reflect changes in the organization and provide these amendments to the FAA.

(b) Maintain the quality system in compliance with the data and procedures approved for the production certificate;
(c) Ensure that each completed product or article for which a production certificate has been issued, including primary category aircraft assembled under a production certificate by another person from a kit provided by the holder of the production certificate, presented for airworthiness certification or approval conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation;
(d) Mark the product or article for which a certificate or approval has been issued. Marking must be in accordance with part 45 of this chapter, including any critical parts;
(e) Identify any portion of the product or article (e.g., sub-assemblies, component parts, or replacement articles) that leave the manufacturer’s facility as FAA approved with the manufacturer’s part number and name, trademark, symbol, or other FAA approved manufacturer’s identification;
(f) Have access to type design data necessary to determine conformity and airworthiness for each product and article produced under the production certificate;
(g) Retain its production certificate and make it available to the FAA upon request; and
(h) Make available to the FAA information regarding all delegation of authority to suppliers.

§ 21.147 Amendment of production certificates.

The holder of a production certificate must apply for an amendment to a production certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the FAA. The applicant for an amendment to a production certificate to add a type certificate or model, or both, must comply with the applicable requirements of §§21.157, 21.158, and 21.159.

§ 21.150 Changes in quality system.

After the issuance of a production certificate—
(a) Each change to the quality system is subject to review by the FAA; and
(b) The holder of a production certificate must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its product or article.

Subpart H—Airworthiness Certificates

SOURCE: Docket No. 5085, 29 FR 14569, Oct. 24, 1964, unless otherwise noted.
§ 21.171 Applicability.
This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the issue of airworthiness certificates.

§ 21.173 Eligibility.
Any registered owner of a U.S.-registered aircraft (or the agent of the owner) may apply for an airworthiness certificate for that aircraft. An application for an airworthiness certificate must be made in a form and manner acceptable to the Administrator, and may be submitted to any FAA office.

§ 21.175 Airworthiness certificates: classification.
(a) Standard airworthiness certificates are airworthiness certificates issued for aircraft type certificated in the normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category, and for manned free balloons, and for aircraft designated by the Administrator as special classes of aircraft.
(b) Special airworthiness certificates are primary, restricted, limited, light-sport, and provisional airworthiness certificates, special flight permits, and experimental certificates.

§ 21.177 Amendment or modification.
An airworthiness certificate may be amended or modified only upon application to the Administrator.

§ 21.179 Transferability.
An airworthiness certificate is transferred with the aircraft.

§ 21.181 Duration.
(a) Unless sooner surrendered, suspended, revoked, or a termination date is otherwise established by the Administrator, airworthiness certificates are effective as follows:
(1) Standard airworthiness certificates, special airworthiness certificates—primary category, and airworthiness certificates issued for restricted or limited category aircraft are effective as long as the maintenance, preventive maintenance, and alterations are performed in accordance with Parts 43 and 91 of this chapter and the aircraft are registered in the United States.
(2) A special flight permit is effective for the period of time specified in the permit.
(3) A special airworthiness certificate in the light-sport category is effective as long as—
(i) The aircraft meets the definition of a light-sport aircraft;
(ii) The aircraft conforms to its original configuration, except for those alterations performed in accordance with an applicable consensus standard and authorized by the aircraft’s manufacturer or a person acceptable to the FAA;
(iii) The aircraft has no unsafe condition and is not likely to develop an unsafe condition; and
(iv) The aircraft is registered in the United States.
(4) An experimental certificate for research and development, showing compliance with regulations, crew training, or market surveys is effective for 1 year after the date of issue or renewal unless the FAA prescribes a shorter period. The duration of an experimental certificate issued for operating amateur-built aircraft, exhibition, air-racing, operating primary kit-built aircraft, or operating light-sport aircraft is unlimited, unless the FAA establishes a specific period for good cause.
(b) The owner, operator, or bailee of the aircraft shall, upon request, make it available for inspection by the Administrator.
(c) Upon suspension, revocation, or termination by order of the Administrator of an airworthiness certificate, the owner, operator, or bailee of an aircraft shall, upon request, surrender the certificate to the Administrator.

§ 21.182 Aircraft identification.
(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each applicant for an airworthiness certificate under this subpart must show that his aircraft is identified as prescribed in §45.11.
§ 21.183 Issue of standard airworthiness certificates for normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, and transport category aircraft; manned free balloons; and special classes of aircraft.

(a) New aircraft manufactured under a production certificate. An applicant for a standard airworthiness certificate for a new aircraft manufactured under a production certificate is entitled to a standard airworthiness certificate upon presentation, by the holder or licensee of the type certificate, of the statement of conformity prescribed in §21.130 if the Administrator finds after inspection that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation.

(b) New aircraft manufactured under type certificate only. An applicant for a standard airworthiness certificate for a new aircraft manufactured under a type certificate only is entitled to a standard airworthiness certificate upon presentation, by the holder or licensee of the type certificate, of the statement of conformity prescribed in §21.130 if the Administrator finds after inspection that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation.

(c) Import aircraft. An applicant for a standard airworthiness certificate for an import aircraft is entitled to that certificate if—

(1) The aircraft is type certified in accordance with §21.21 or §21.29 and produced under the authority of another State of Manufacture;

(2) The State of Manufacture certifies, in accordance with the export provisions of an agreement with the United States for import of that aircraft, that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation; and

(3) The FAA finds that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation.

(d) Used aircraft and surplus aircraft of the U.S. Armed Forces. An applicant for a standard airworthiness certificate for a used aircraft or surplus aircraft of the U.S. Armed Forces is entitled to a standard airworthiness certificate if—

(1) The applicant presents evidence to the FAA that the aircraft conforms to a type design approved under a type certificate or a supplemental type certificate and to applicable Airworthiness Directives;

(2) The aircraft (except an experimentally certificated aircraft that previously had been issued a different airworthiness certificate under this section) has been inspected in accordance with the performance rules for 100-hour inspections set forth in §43.15 of this chapter, or an equivalent performance standard acceptable to the FAA, and found airworthy by—

(i) The manufacturer;

(ii) The holder of a repair station certificate as provided in Part 145 of this chapter;

(iii) The holder of a mechanic certificate as authorized in Part 65 of this chapter; or

(iv) The holder of a certificate issued under Part 121 of this chapter, and having a maintenance and inspection organization appropriate to the aircraft type; and

(3) The FAA finds after inspection, that the aircraft conforms to the type design, and is in condition for safe operation.

(e) Noise requirements. Notwithstanding all other provisions of this section, the following must be complied with for the original issuance of a standard airworthiness certificate:

(1) For transport category large airplanes and jet (turbojet powered) airplanes that have not had any flight time before the dates specified in §36.1(d), no standard airworthiness certificate is originally issued under this section unless the Administrator finds that the type design complies with the...
noise requirements in §36.1(d) in addition to the applicable airworthiness requirements in this section. For import airplanes, compliance with this paragraph is shown if the country in which the airplane was manufactured certifies, and the Administrator finds, that §36.1(d) (or the applicable airplane noise requirements of the country in which the airplane was manufactured and any other requirements the Administrator may prescribe to provide noise levels no greater than those provided by compliance with §36.1(d)) and paragraph (c) of this section are complied with.

(2) For normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category propeller driven small airplanes (except for those airplanes that are designed for “agricultural aircraft operations” (as defined in §137.3 of this chapter, as effective on January 1, 1966) or for dispensing fire fighting materials to which §36.1583 of this chapter does not apply) that have not had any flight time before the applicable date specified in Part 36 of this chapter, no standard airworthiness certificate is originally issued under this section unless the applicant shows that the type design complies with the applicable noise requirements of Part 36 of this chapter in addition to the applicable airworthiness requirements in this section. For import airplanes, compliance with this paragraph is shown if the country in which the airplane was manufactured and any other requirements the Administrator may prescribe to provide noise levels no greater than those provided by compliance with §36.1(d) and paragraph (c) of this section are complied with.

(f) **Passenger emergency exit requirements.** Notwithstanding all other provisions of this section, each applicant for issuance of a standard airworthiness certificate for a transport category airplane manufactured after October 16, 1987, must show that the airplane meets the requirements of §25.807(c)(7) in effect on July 24, 1989. For the purposes of this paragraph, the date of manufacture of an airplane is the date the inspection acceptance records reflect that the airplane is complete and meets the FAA-approved type design data.

(g) **Fuel venting and exhaust emission requirements.** Notwithstanding all other provisions of this section, and irrespective of the date of application, no airworthiness certificate is issued, on and after the dates specified in part 34 for the airplanes specified therein, unless the airplane complies with the applicable requirements of that part.

(h) **New aircraft manufactured under the provisions of §21.6(b).** An applicant for a standard airworthiness certificate for a new aircraft manufactured under the provisions of §21.6(b) is entitled to a standard airworthiness certificate if—

(1) The applicant presents evidence to the FAA that the aircraft conforms to a type design approved under a type certificate or supplemental type certificate and to applicable Airworthiness Directives;

(2) The aircraft has been inspected in accordance with the performance rules for a 100-hour inspections set forth in §43.15 of this chapter and found airworthy by a person specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section; and

(3) The FAA finds after inspection, that the aircraft conforms to the type design, and is in condition for safe operation.


EDITORIAL NOTE: For Federal Register citations affecting §21.183, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and at www.fdsys.gov.

§21.184 Issue of special airworthiness certificates for primary category aircraft.

(a) **New primary category aircraft manufactured under a production certificate.** An applicant for an original, special airworthiness certificate-primary category for a new aircraft that meets the criteria of §21.24(a)(1), manufactured under a production certificate, including aircraft assembled by another person from a kit provided by the holder of the production certificate and under
§ 21.185 Issue of airworthiness certificates for restricted category aircraft.

(a) Aircraft manufactured under a production certificate or type certificate only. An applicant for the original issue of a restricted category airworthiness certificate for an aircraft type certificated in the restricted category, that was not previously type certificated in any other category, must comply with the appropriate provisions of §21.183.

(b) Other aircraft. An applicant for a restricted category airworthiness certificate for an aircraft type certificated in the restricted category, that was either a surplus aircraft of the Armed Forces or previously type certificated in another category, is entitled to an airworthiness certificate if the aircraft has been inspected by the Administrator and found by him to be in a good state of preservation and repair and in a condition for safe operation.

(c) Import aircraft. An applicant for the original issue of a special airworthiness certificate for a restricted category import aircraft is entitled to that certificate if—

(1) The aircraft is type-certificated in accordance with §21.25 or §21.29 and produced under the authority of another State of Manufacture;

(2) The State of Manufacture certifies, in accordance with the export provisions of an agreement with the United States for import of that aircraft that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation; and

(3) The FAA finds that the aircraft conforms to the type design and is in condition for safe operation.
§ 21.190 Noise requirements.

For propeller-driven small airplanes (except airplanes designed for “agricultural aircraft operations,” as defined in §137.3 of this chapter, as effective on January 1, 1966, or for dispensing fire fighting materials) that have not had any flight time before the applicable date specified in Part 36 of this chapter, and notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no original restricted category airworthiness certificate is issued under this section unless the Administrator finds that the type design complies with the applicable noise requirements of Part 36 of this chapter in addition to the applicable airworthiness requirements of this section. For import airplanes, compliance with this paragraph is shown if the country in which the airplane was manufactured certifies, and the Administrator finds, that the applicable requirements of Part 36 of this chapter (or the applicable airplane noise requirements of the country in which the airplane was manufactured and any other requirements the Administrator may prescribe to provide noise levels no greater than those provided by compliance with the applicable requirements of Part 36 of this chapter) and paragraph (c) of this section are complied with.


§ 21.189 Issue of airworthiness certificate for limited category aircraft.

(a) An applicant for an airworthiness certificate for an aircraft in the limited category is entitled to the certificate when—

(1) He shows that the aircraft has been previously issued a limited category type certificate and that the aircraft conforms to that type certificate; and

(2) The Administrator finds, after inspection (including a flight check by the applicant), that the aircraft is in a good state of preservation and repair and is in a condition for safe operation.

(b) The Administrator prescribes limitations and conditions necessary for safe operation.


§ 21.190 Issue of a special airworthiness certificate for a light-sport category aircraft.

(a) Purpose. The FAA issues a special airworthiness certificate in the light-sport category to operate a light-sport aircraft, other than a gyroplane.

(b) Eligibility. To be eligible for a special airworthiness certificate in the light-sport category:

(1) An applicant must provide the FAA with—

(i) The aircraft’s operating instructions;

(ii) The aircraft’s maintenance and inspection procedures;

(iii) The manufacturer’s statement of compliance as described in paragraph (c) of this section; and

(iv) The aircraft’s flight training supplement.

(2) The aircraft must not have been previously issued a standard, primary,
restricted, limited, or provisional airworthiness certificate, or an equivalent airworthiness certificate issued by a foreign civil aviation authority.

(3) The aircraft must be inspected by the FAA and found to be in a condition for safe operation.

(c) Manufacturer’s statement of compliance for light-sport category aircraft. The manufacturer’s statement of compliance required in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section must—

1. Identify the aircraft by make and model, serial number, class, date of manufacture, and consensus standard used;
2. State that the aircraft meets the provisions of the identified consensus standard;
3. State that the aircraft conforms to the manufacturer’s design data, using the manufacturer’s quality assurance system that meets the identified consensus standard;
4. State that the manufacturer will make available to any interested person the following documents that meet the identified consensus standard:
   (i) The aircraft’s operating instructions.
   (ii) The aircraft’s maintenance and inspection procedures.
   (iii) The aircraft’s flight training supplement.
5. State that the manufacturer will monitor and correct safety-of-flight issues through the issuance of safety directives and a continued airworthiness system that meets the identified consensus standard;
6. State that at the request of the FAA, the manufacturer will provide unrestricted access to its facilities; and
7. State that the manufacturer, in accordance with a production acceptance test procedure that meets an applicable consensus standard has—
   (i) Ground and flight tested the aircraft;
   (ii) Found the aircraft performance acceptable; and
   (iii) Determined that the aircraft is in a condition for safe operation.

The aircraft must be inspected by the FAA and found to be in a condition for safe operation.

(b) Showing compliance with regulations. Conducting flight tests and other operations to show compliance with the airworthiness regulations including flights to show compliance for issuance of type and supplemental type certificates, flights to substantiate major design changes, and flights to show compliance with the function and reliability requirements of the regulations.

(c) Crew training. Training of the applicant’s flight crews.

(d) Exhibition. Exhibiting the aircraft’s flight capabilities, performance, or unusual characteristics at air shows, motion picture, television, and similar productions, and the maintenance of exhibition flight proficiency, including (for persons exhibiting aircraft) flying to and from such air shows and productions.

(e) Air racing. Participating in air races, including (for such participants) practicing for such air races and flying to and from racing events.

(f) Market surveys. Use of aircraft for purposes of conducting market surveys, sales demonstrations, and customer crew training only as provided in §21.195.
(g) Operating amateur-built aircraft. Operating an aircraft the major portion of which has been fabricated and assembled by persons who undertook the construction project solely for their own education or recreation.

(h) Operating primary kit-built aircraft. Operating a primary category aircraft that meets the criteria of §21.24(a)(1) that was assembled by a person from a kit manufactured by the holder of a production certificate for that kit, without the supervision and quality control of the production certificate holder under §21.184(a).

(i) Operating light-sport aircraft. Operating a light-sport aircraft that—

1. Has not been issued a U.S. or foreign airworthiness certificate and does not meet the provisions of §103.1 of this chapter. An experimental certificate will not be issued under this paragraph for these aircraft after January 31, 2008;

2. Has been assembled—

   (i) From an aircraft kit for which the applicant can provide the information required by §21.193(e); and

   (ii) In accordance with manufacturer's assembly instructions that meet an applicable consensus standard; or

3. Has been previously issued a special airworthiness certificate in the light-sport category under §21.190.


An applicant for an experimental certificate must submit the following information:

(a) A statement, in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator setting forth the purpose for which the aircraft is to be used.

(b) Enough data (such as photographs) to identify the aircraft.

(c) Upon inspection of the aircraft, any pertinent information found necessary by the Administrator to safeguard the general public.

(d) In the case of an aircraft to be used for experimental purposes—

   (1) The purpose of the experiment;

   (2) The estimated time or number of flights required for the experiment;

   (3) The areas over which the experiment will be conducted; and

   (4) Except for aircraft converted from a previously certificated type without appreciable change in the external configuration, three-view drawings or three-view dimensioned photographs of the aircraft.

(e) In the case of a light-sport aircraft assembled from a kit to be certificated in accordance with §21.191(i)(2), an applicant must provide the following:

1. Evidence that an aircraft of the same make and model was manufactured and assembled by the aircraft kit manufacturer and issued a special airworthiness certificate in the light-sport category.

2. The aircraft’s operating instructions.

3. The aircraft’s maintenance and inspection procedures.

4. The manufacturer’s statement of compliance for the aircraft kit used in the aircraft assembly that meets §21.190(c), except that instead of meeting §21.190(c)(7), the statement must identify assembly instructions for the aircraft that meet an applicable consensus standard.

5. The aircraft’s flight training supplement.

6. In addition to paragraphs (e)(1) through (e)(5) of this section, for an aircraft kit manufactured outside of the United States, evidence that the aircraft kit was manufactured in a country with which the United States has a Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement concerning airplanes or a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement with associated Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness concerning airplanes, or an equivalent airworthiness agreement.


§ 21.195 Experimental certificates: Aircraft to be used for market surveys, sales demonstrations, and customer crew training.

(a) A manufacturer of aircraft manufactured within the United States may apply for an experimental certificate
§ 21.197 Special flight permits.

(a) A special flight permit may be issued for an aircraft that may not currently meet applicable airworthiness requirements but is capable of safe flight, for the following purposes:

(1) Flying the aircraft to a base where repairs, alterations, or maintenance are to be performed, or to a point of storage.

(2) Delivering or exporting the aircraft.

(3) Production flight testing new production aircraft.

(4) Evacuating aircraft from areas of impending danger.

(5) Conducting customer demonstration flights in new production aircraft that have satisfactorily completed production flight tests.

(b) A special flight permit may also be issued to authorize the operation of an aircraft at a weight in excess of its maximum certificated takeoff weight for flight beyond the normal range over water, or over land areas where adequate landing facilities or appropriate fuel is not available. The excess weight that may be authorized under this paragraph is limited to the additional fuel, fuel-carrying facilities, and navigation equipment necessary for the flight.

(c) Upon application, as prescribed in §§91.1017 or 119.51 of this chapter, a special flight permit with a continuing authorization may be issued for aircraft that may not meet applicable airworthiness requirements, but are capable of safe flight for the purpose of flying aircraft to a base where maintenance or alterations are to be performed. The permit issued under this paragraph is an authorization, including conditions and limitations for flight, which is set forth in the certificate holder's operations specifications. The permit issued under this paragraph may be issued to—

(1) Certificate holders authorized to conduct operations under part 119 of this chapter, that have an approved program for continuing flight authorization; or

(2) Management specification holders authorized to conduct operations under part 91, subpart K of this chapter for those aircraft they operate and maintain under a continuous airworthiness maintenance program prescribed by §91.1411 of this chapter.

§ 21.199 Issue of special flight permits.

(a) Except as provided in §21.197(c), an applicant for a special flight permit must submit a statement in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator, indicating—

1. The purpose of the flight.
2. The proposed itinerary.
3. The crew required to operate the aircraft and its equipment, e.g., pilot, co-pilot, navigator, etc.
4. The ways, if any, in which the aircraft does not comply with the applicable airworthiness requirements.
5. Any restriction the applicant considers necessary for safe operation of the aircraft.
6. Any other information considered necessary by the Administrator for the purpose of prescribing operating limitations.

(b) The Administrator may make, or require the applicant to make appropriate inspections or tests necessary for safety.


Subpart I—Provisional Airworthiness Certificates

SOURCE: Docket No. 5085, 29 FR 14571, Oct. 24, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.211 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the issue of provisional airworthiness certificates.

§ 21.213 Eligibility.

(a) A manufacturer who is a United States citizen may apply for a Class I or Class II provisional airworthiness certificate for aircraft manufactured by him within the U.S.

(b) Any holder of an air carrier operating certificate under Part 121 of this chapter who is a United States citizen may apply for a Class II provisional airworthiness certificate for transport category aircraft that meet either of the following:

1. The aircraft has a current Class II provisional type certificate or an amendment thereto.
2. The aircraft has a current provisional amendment to a type certificate that was preceded by a corresponding Class II provisional type certificate.
(c) An aircraft engine manufacturer who is a United States citizen and who has altered a type certificated aircraft by installing different type certificated engines, manufactured by him within the United States, may apply for a Class I provisional airworthiness certificate for that aircraft, if the basic aircraft, before alteration, was type certificated in the normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category.


§ 21.215 Application.

Applications for provisional airworthiness certificates must be submitted to the Manufacturing Inspection District Office in the geographic area in which the manufacturer or air carrier is located. The application must be accompanied by the pertinent information specified in this subpart.


§ 21.217 Duration.

Unless sooner surrendered, superseded, revoked, or otherwise terminated, provisional airworthiness certificates are effective for the duration of the corresponding provisional type certificate, amendment to a provisional type certificate, or provisional amendment to the type certificate.

§ 21.219 Transferability.

Class I provisional airworthiness certificates are not transferable. Class II provisional airworthiness certificates may be transferred to an air carrier eligible to apply for a certificate under §21.23(b).

§ 21.221 Class I provisional airworthiness certificates.

(a) Except as provided in §21.225, an applicant is entitled to a Class I provisional airworthiness certificate for an aircraft for which a Class I provisional type certificate has been issued if—

1. He meets the eligibility requirements of §21.23 and he complies with this section; and
(2) The Administrator finds that there is no feature, characteristic or condition of the aircraft that would make the aircraft unsafe when operated in accordance with the limitations established in §§21.8(e) and 91.317 of this subchapter.

(b) The manufacturer must hold a provisional type certificate for the aircraft.

(c) The manufacturer must submit a statement that the aircraft conforms to the type design corresponding to the provisional type certificate and has been found by him to be in safe operating condition under all applicable limitations.

(d) The aircraft must be flown at least five hours by the manufacturer.

(e) The aircraft must be supplied with a provisional aircraft flight manual or other document and appropriate placards containing the limitations established by §§21.83(h), 91.317, and 121.207 of this chapter.

§ 21.225 Provisional airworthiness certificates corresponding with provisional amendments to type certificates.

(a) An applicant is entitled to a Class I or a Class II provisional airworthiness certificate, for an aircraft, for which a provisional amendment to the type certificate has been issued if—

(1) He meets the eligibility requirements of §21.213 and he complies with this section; and

(2) The Administrator finds that there is no feature, characteristic, or condition of the aircraft, as modified in accordance with the provisionally amended type certificate, that would make the aircraft unsafe when operated in accordance with the applicable limitations established in §§21.83(h), 91.317, and 121.207 of this chapter.

(b) The applicant must show that the modification was made under a quality system adequate to ensure that the modification conforms to the provisionally amended type certificate.

(c) The applicant must submit a statement that the aircraft has been found by him to be in a safe operating condition under the applicable limitations.

(d) The aircraft must be flown at least five hours by the manufacturer.

(e) The aircraft must be supplied with a provisional aircraft flight manual or other document and appropriate placards containing the limitations required by §§21.85(g), 91.317, and 121.207 of this chapter.

§ 21.223 Class II provisional airworthiness certificates.

(a) Except as provided in §21.225, an applicant is entitled to a Class II provisional airworthiness certificate for an aircraft for which a Class II provisional type certificate has been issued if—

(1) He meets the eligibility requirements of §21.213 and he complies with this section; and

(2) The Administrator finds that there is no feature, characteristic, or condition of the aircraft that would make the aircraft unsafe when operated in accordance with the limitations established in §§21.83(h), 91.317, and 121.207 of this chapter.

(b) The applicant must hold a provisional type certificate for the aircraft.

(c) The applicant must submit a statement that the aircraft has been found by him to be in safe operating condition under the applicable limitations.

(d) The aircraft must be flown at least five hours by the manufacturer.

(e) The aircraft must be supplied with a provisional aircraft flight manual containing the limitations established by §§21.83(h), 91.317, and 121.207 of this chapter.

Subpart J—Delegation Option Authorization Procedures

§ 21.231 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes procedures for—
(a) Obtaining and using a delegation option authorization for type, production, and airworthiness certification (as applicable) of—
(1) Small airplanes and small gliders;
(2) Commuter category airplanes;
(3) Normal category rotorcraft;
(4) Turbojet engines of not more than 1,000 pounds thrust;
(5) Turbopropeller and reciprocating engines of not more than 500 brake horsepower; and
(6) Propellers manufactured for use on engines covered by paragraph (a)(4) of this section; and
(b) Issuing airworthiness approval tags for engines, propellers, and parts of products covered by paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 21.235 Application.

(a) An application for a Delegation Option Authorization must be submitted, in a form and manner prescribed by the Administrator, to the Aircraft Certification Office for the area in which the manufacturer is located.

(b) An application must include the names, signatures, and titles of the persons for whom authorization to sign airworthiness certificates, repair and alterations forms, and inspection forms is requested.

(c) After November 14, 2006, the Administrator will no longer accept applications for a Delegation Option Authorization.

§ 21.243 Duration.

A delegation option authorization is effective until it is surrendered or the Administrator suspends, revokes, or otherwise terminates it.

§ 21.245 Maintenance of eligibility.

The holder of a delegation option authorization shall continue to meet the requirements for issue of the authorization or shall notify the Administrator within 48 hours of any change (including a change of personnel) that could affect the ability of the holder to meet those requirements.

§ 21.247 Transferability.

A delegation option authorization is not transferable.

§ 21.249 Inspections.

Upon request, each holder of a delegation option authorization and each applicant shall let the Administrator inspect his organization, facilities, product, and records.

§ 21.251 Limits of applicability.

(a) Delegation option authorizations apply only to products that are manufactured by the holder of the authorization.

(d) After November 14, 2009, no person may perform any function contained in a Delegation Option Authorization issued under this subpart.

§ 21.233 Applicability.

To be eligible for a delegation option authorization, the applicant must—
(a) Hold a current type certificate, issued to him under the standard procedures, for a product type certificated under the same part as the products for which the delegation option authorization is sought;
(b) Hold a current production certificate issued under the standard procedures;
(c) Employ a staff of engineering, flight test, production and inspection personnel who can determine compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter; and
(d) Meet the requirements of this subpart.
(b) Delegation option authorizations may be used for—

(1) Type certification;

(2) Changes in the type design of products for which the manufacturer holds, or obtains, a type certificate;

(3) The amendment of a production certificate held by the manufacturer to include additional models or additional types for which he holds or obtains a type certificate; and

(4) The issue of—

(i) Experimental certificates for aircraft for which the manufacturer has applied for a type certificate or amended type certificate under §21.253, to permit the operation of those aircraft for the purpose of research and development, crew training, market surveys, or the showing of compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements;

(ii) Airworthiness certificates (other than experimental certificates) for aircraft for which the manufacturer holds a type certificate and holds or is in the process of obtaining a production certificate;

(iii) Airworthiness approval tags (FAA Form 8130–3) for engines and propellers for which the manufacturer holds a type certificate and holds or is in the process of obtaining a production certificate; and

(iv) Airworthiness approval tags (FAA Form 8130–3) for parts of products covered by this section.

(c) Delegation option procedures may be applied to one or more types selected by the manufacturer, who must notify the FAA of each model, and of the first serial number of each model manufactured by him under the delegation option procedures. Other types or models may remain under the standard procedures.

(d) Delegation option authorizations are subject to any additional limitations prescribed by the Administrator after inspection of the applicant’s facilities or review of the staff qualifications.

Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.253 was amended by removing the words “(FAA Form 312)” from paragraph (a)(1), effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.253 Type certificates: application.

(a) To obtain, under the delegation option authorization, a type certificate for a new product or an amended type certificate, the manufacturer must submit to the Administrator—

(1) An application for a type certificate (FAA Form 312);

(2) A statement listing the airworthiness requirements of this chapter (by part number and effective date) that the manufacturer considers applicable;

(3) After determining that the type design meets the applicable requirements, a statement certifying that this determination has been made;

(4) After placing the required technical data and type inspection report in the technical data file required by §21.293(a)(1)(i), a statement certifying that this has been done;

(5) A proposed type certificate data sheet; and

(6) An Aircraft Flight Manual (if required) or a summary of required operating limitations and other information necessary for safe operation of the product.

Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.253 was amended by removing the words “(FAA Form 312)” from paragraph (a)(1), effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.257 Type certificates: issue.

An applicant is entitled to a type certificate for a product manufactured under a delegation option authorization if the Administrator finds that the product meets the applicable airworthiness, noise, fuel venting, and exhaust emission requirements (including applicable acoustical change or emissions change requirements in the case of changes in type design).

Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.253 was amended by removing the words “(FAA Form 312)” from paragraph (a)(1), effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.
§ 21.261 Equivalent safety provisions.
The manufacturer shall obtain the Administrator’s concurrence on the application of all equivalent safety provisions applied under § 21.21.

§ 21.267 Production certificates.
To have a new model or new type certificate listed on his production certificate (issued under Subpart G of this part), the manufacturer must submit to the Administrator—
(a) An application for an amendment to the production certificate;
(b) After determining that the production certification requirements of Subpart G, with respect to the new model or type, are met, a statement certifying that this determination has been made;
(c) A statement identifying the type certificate number under which the product is being manufactured; and
(d) After placing the manufacturing and quality system data required by § 21.137 with the data required by § 21.293(a)(1)(ii), a statement certifying that this has been done.

Effective Date Note: By Amdt. No. 21–92, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.267(d) was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010.

§ 21.269 Export airworthiness approvals.
The manufacturer may issue export airworthiness approvals.

§ 21.271 Airworthiness approval tags.
(a) A manufacturer may issue an airworthiness approval tag (FAA Form 8130–3) for each engine and propeller covered by § 21.251(b)(4), and may issue an airworthiness approval tag for parts of each product covered by that section, if he finds, on the basis of inspection and operation tests, that those products conform to a type design for which he holds a type certificate and are in condition for safe operation.
(b) When a new model has been included on the Production Limitation Record, the production certification number shall be stamped on the engine or propeller identification data place instead of issuing an airworthiness approval tag.


§ 21.273 Airworthiness certificates other than experimental.
(a) The manufacturer may issue an airworthiness certificate for aircraft manufactured under a delegation option authorization if he finds, on the basis of the inspection and production flight check, that each aircraft conforms to a type design for which he holds a type certificate and is in a condition for safe operation.
(b) The manufacturer may authorize any employee to sign airworthiness certificates if that employee—
(1) Performs, or is in direct charge of, the inspection specified in paragraph (a) of this section; and
(2) Is listed on the manufacturer’s application for the delegation option authorization, or on amendments thereof.


§ 21.275 Experimental certificates.
(a) The manufacturer shall, before issuing an experimental certificate, obtain from the Administration any limitations and conditions that the Administrator considers necessary for safety.
(b) For experimental certificates issued by the manufacturer, under this subpart, for aircraft for which the manufacturer holds the type certificate and which have undergone changes to the type design requiring flight test, the manufacturer may prescribe any operating limitations that he considers necessary.
§ 21.277 Data review and service experience.

(a) If the Administrator finds that a product for which a type certificate was issued under this subpart does not meet the applicable airworthiness requirements, or that an unsafe feature or characteristic caused by a defect in design or manufacture exists, the manufacturer, upon notification by the Administrator, shall investigate the matter and report to the Administrator the results of the investigation and the action, if any, taken or proposed.

(b) If corrective action by the user of the product is necessary for safety because of any noncompliance or defect specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the manufacturer shall submit the information necessary for the issue of an Airworthiness Directive under Part 39.

§ 21.289 Major repairs, rebuilding and alteration.

For types covered by a delegation option authorization, a manufacturer may—

(a) After finding that a major repair or major alteration meets the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter, approve that repair or alteration; and

(b) Authorize any employee to execute and sign FAA Form 337 and make required log book entries if that employee—

(1) Inspects, or is in direct charge of inspecting, the repair, rebuilding, or alteration; and

(2) Is listed on the application for the delegation option authorization, or on amendments thereof.

§ 21.293 Current records.

(a) The manufacturer shall maintain at his factory, for each product type certificated under a delegation option authorization, current records containing the following:

(1) For the duration of the manufacturing operating under the delegation option authorization—

(i) A technical data file that includes the type design drawings, specifications, reports on tests prescribed by this part, and the original type inspection report and amendments to that report;

(ii) The data (including amendments) required to be submitted with the original application for each production certificate; and

(iii) A record of any rebuilding and alteration performed by the manufacturer on products manufactured under the delegation option authorization.

(2) For 2 years—

(i) A complete inspection record for each product manufactured, by serial number, and data covering the processes and tests to which materials and parts are subjected; and

(ii) A record of reported service difficulties.

(b) The records and data specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be—

(1) Made available, upon the Administrator's request, for examination by the Administrator at any time; and

(2) Identified and sent to the Administrator as soon as the manufacturer no longer operates under the delegation option procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, §21.293(a)(2) introductory text was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this amendment was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 21.293 Current records.

(a) * * *

(2) For 5 years—

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Subpart K—Approval of Materials, Parts, Processes, and Appliances

SOURCE: Docket No. 5085, 29 FR 14574, Oct. 24, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Docket No. FAA-2006-25677, 74 FR 53390, Oct. 16, 2009, subpart K of part 21 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the new subpart K follows the text of this subpart.

§ 21.301 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes procedural requirements for the approval of certain materials, parts, processes, and appliances.
§ 21.303 Replacement and modification parts.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no person may produce a modification or replacement part for sale for installation on a type certificated product unless it is produced pursuant to a Parts Manufacturer Approval issued under this subpart.

(b) This section does not apply to the following:

(1) Parts produced under a type or production certificate.

(2) Parts produced by an owner or operator for maintaining or altering his own product.

(3) Parts produced under an FAA Technical Standard Order.

(4) Standard parts (such as bolts and nuts) conforming to established industry or U.S. specifications.

(c) An application for a Parts Manufacturer Approval is made to the Manager of the Aircraft Certification Office for the geographic area in which the manufacturing facility is located and must include the following:

(1) The identity of the product on which the part is to be installed.

(2) The name and address of the manufacturing facilities at which these parts are to be manufactured.

(3) The design of the part, which consists of—

(i) Drawings and specifications necessary to show the configuration of the part; and

(ii) Information on dimensions, materials, and processes necessary to define the structural strength of the part.

(4) Test reports and computations necessary to show that the design of the part meets the airworthiness requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations applicable to the product on which the part is to be installed; and

(2) He submits a statement certifying that he has established the fabrication inspection system required by paragraph (h) of this section.

(e) Each applicant for a Parts Manufacturer Approval must allow the Administrator to make any inspection or test necessary to determine compliance with the applicable Federal Aviation Regulations. However, unless otherwise authorized by the Administrator—

(1) No part may be presented to the Administrator for an inspection or test unless compliance with paragraphs (f)(2) through (4) of this section has been shown for that part; and

(2) No change may be made to a part between the time that compliance with paragraphs (f)(2) through (4) of this section is shown for that part and the time that the part is presented to the Administrator for the inspection or test.

(f) Each applicant for a Parts Manufacturer Approval must make all inspections and tests necessary to determine—

(1) Compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements;

(2) That materials conform to the specifications in the design;

(3) That the part conforms to the drawings in the design; and

(4) That the fabrication processes, construction, and assembly conform to those specified in the design.

(g) The Administrator does not issue a Parts Manufacturer Approval if the manufacturing facilities for the part are located outside of the United States, unless the Administrator finds that the location of the manufacturing facilities places no burden on the FAA in administering applicable airworthiness requirements.

(h) Each holder of a Parts Manufacturer Approval shall establish and maintain a fabrication inspection system that ensures that each completed part conforms to its design data and is safe for installation on applicable type
§ 21.303 Approval of materials, parts, processes, and appliances.

Whenever a material, part, process, or appliance is required to be approved under this chapter, it may be approved—

(a) Under a Parts Manufacturer Approval issued under § 21.303;

(b) Under a Technical Standard Order issued by the Administrator. Advisory Circular 20–110 contains a list of Technical Standard Orders that may be used to obtain approval. Copies of the Advisory Circular may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Publication Section (M–443.1), Washington, D.C. 20590;

(c) In conjunction with type certification procedures for a product; or

(d) In any other manner approved by the Administrator.

Sec. 21.301 Applicability.

This subpart prescribes—

(a) Procedural requirements for issuing PMAs; and

(b) Rules governing holders of PMAs.

§ 21.303 Application.

(a) The applicant for a PMA must apply in a form and manner prescribed by the FAA, and include the following:

(1) The identity of the product on which the article is to be installed.

(2) The name and address of the manufacturing facilities at which these articles are to be manufactured.

(3) The design of the article, which consists of:

(i) Drawings and specifications necessary to show the configuration of the article; and

(ii) Materials and components must be segregated and identified in such a manner as to preclude their use in the finished part.

(4) Processes affecting the quality and safety of the finished product must be accomplished in accordance with acceptable specifications.

(5) Parts in process must be inspected for conformity with the design data at points in production where accurate determination can be made. Statistical quality control procedures may be employed where it is shown that a satisfactory level of quality will be maintained for the particular part involved.

(6) Current design drawings must be readily available to manufacturing and inspection personnel, and used when necessary.

(7) Major changes to the basic design must be adequately controlled and approved before being incorporated in the finished part.

(8) Major changes to the basic design must be adequately controlled and approved before being incorporated in the finished part.

(9) Inspection records must be maintained, identified with the completed part, where practicable, and retained in the manufacturer’s file for a period of at least 2 years after the part has been completed.

(i) A Parts Manufacturer Approval issued under this section is not transferable and is effective until surrendered or withdrawn or otherwise terminated by the Administrator.

(j) The holder of a Parts Manufacturer Approval shall notify the FAA in writing within 10 days from the date the manufacturing facility at which the parts are manufactured is relocated or expanded to include additional facilities at other locations.

(k) Each holder of a Parts Manufacturer Approval shall determine that each completed part conforms to the design data and is safe for installation on type certificated products.
(ii) Information on dimensions, materials, and processes necessary to define the structural strength of the article.

(4) Test reports and computations necessary to show that the design of the article meets the airworthiness requirements of this subchapter. The test reports and computations must be applicable to the product on which the article is to be installed, unless the applicant shows that the design of the article is identical to the design of a article that is covered under a type certificate. If the design of the article was obtained by a licensing agreement, the applicant must provide evidence of that agreement.

(b) Each applicant for a PMA must provide all inspections and tests necessary to determine—

(1) Compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements;

(2) That materials conform to the specifications in the design;

(3) That the article conforms to its approved design; and

(4) That the manufacturing processes, construction, and assembly conform to those specified in the design.

§ 21.305 Organization.

Each applicant for or holder of a PMA must provide the FAA with a document describing how its organization will ensure compliance with the provisions of this subpart. At a minimum, the document must describe assigned responsibilities and delegated authority, and the functional relationship of those responsible for quality to management and other organizational components.

§ 21.307 Quality system.

Each applicant for or holder of a PMA must establish a quality system that meets the requirements of §21.137.


Each applicant for or holder of a PMA must provide a manual describing its quality system to the FAA for approval. The manual must be in the English language and retrievable in a form acceptable to the FAA.

§ 21.309 Location of or change to manufacturing facilities.

(a) An applicant may obtain a PMA for manufacturing facilities located outside of the United States if the FAA finds no undue burden in administering the applicable requirements of Title 49 U.S.C. and this subchapter.

(b) The PMA holder must obtain FAA approval before making any changes to the location of any of its manufacturing facilities.

(c) The PMA holder must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change to the manufacturing facilities that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its PMA article.

§ 21.310 Inspections and tests.

(a) Each applicant for or holder of a PMA must allow the FAA to inspect its quality system, facilities, technical data, and any manufactured articles and witness any tests, including any inspections or tests at a supplier facility, necessary to determine compliance with this subchapter.

(b) Unless otherwise authorized by the FAA, the applicant or holder—

(1) May not present any article to the FAA for an inspection or test unless compliance with §21.303(b)(2) through (4) has been shown for that article; and

(2) May not make any change to an article between the time that compliance with §21.303(b)(2) through (4) is shown for that article and the time that the article is presented to the FAA for the inspection or test.

§ 21.311 Issuance.

The FAA issues a PMA after finding that the applicant complies with the requirements of this subpart and the design complies with the requirements of this chapter applicable to the product on which the article is to be installed.

§ 21.313 Duration.

A PMA is effective until surrendered, withdrawn, or the FAA otherwise terminates it.

§ 21.314 Transferability.

The holder of a PMA may not transfer the PMA.

§ 21.316 Responsibility of holder.

Each holder of a PMA must—

(a) Amend the document required by §21.305 as necessary to reflect changes in the organization and provide these amendments to the FAA;

(b) Maintain the quality system in compliance with the data and procedures approved for the PMA;

(c) Ensure that each PMA article conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation;

(d) Mark the PMA article for which an approval has been issued. Marking must be in accordance with part 45 of this chapter, including any critical parts;

(e) Identify any portion of the PMA article (e.g., sub-assemblies, component parts, or replacement articles) that leave the manufacturer’s facility as FAA approved with the manufacturer’s part number and name, trademark, symbol, or other FAA approved manufacturer’s identification;
§ 21.321  
(f) Have access to design data necessary to determine conformity and airworthiness for each article produced under the PMA;  
(g) Retain each document granting PMA and make it available to the FAA upon request; and  
(h) Make available to the FAA information regarding all delegation of authority to suppliers.

§ 21.319  Design changes.  
(a) Classification of design changes. (1) A "minor change" to the design of an article produced under a PMA is one that has no appreciable effect on the approval basis.  
(2) A "major change" to the design of an article produced under a PMA is any change that is not minor.

§ 21.320  Changes in quality system.  
After the issuance of a PMA—  
(a) Each change to the quality system is subject to review by the FAA; and  
(b) The holder of the PMA must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its article.

Subpart L—Export Airworthiness Approvals

Source: 74 FR 53391, Oct. 16, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.321  Applicability.  
This subpart prescribes—  
(a) Procedural requirements for issuing export airworthiness approvals; and  
(b) Rules governing the holders of those approvals.

§ 21.325  Export airworthiness approvals.  
(a) An export airworthiness approval for an aircraft is issued in the form of an export certificate of airworthiness. This certificate does not authorize operation of that aircraft.  
(b) The FAA prescribes the form and manner in which an export airworthiness approval for an aircraft engine, propeller, or article is issued.  
(c) If the FAA finds no undue burden in administering the applicable requirements of Title 49 U.S.C. and this subchapter, an export airworthiness approval may be issued for a product or article located outside of the United States.

§ 21.327  Application.  
Any person may apply for an export airworthiness approval. Each applicant must apply in a form and manner prescribed by the FAA.

§ 21.329  Issuance of export certificates of airworthiness.  
(a) A person may obtain from the FAA an export certificate of airworthiness for an aircraft if—  
(1) A new or used aircraft manufactured under subpart F or G of this part meets the airworthiness requirements under subpart H of this part for a—  
(i) Standard airworthiness certificate; or  
(ii) Special airworthiness certificate in either the "primary" or the "restricted" category; or  
(2) A new or used aircraft not manufactured under subpart F or G of this part has a valid—  
(i) Standard airworthiness certificate; or  
(ii) Special airworthiness certificate in either the "primary" or the "restricted" category.  
(b) An aircraft need not meet a requirement specified in paragraph (a) of this section, as applicable, if—  
(1) The importing country or jurisdiction accepts, in a form and manner acceptable to the FAA, a deviation from that requirement; and  
(2) The export certificate of airworthiness lists as an exception any difference between the aircraft to be exported and its type design.

§ 21.331  Issuance of export airworthiness approvals for aircraft engines, propellers, and articles.  
(a) A person may obtain from the FAA an export airworthiness approval to export a new aircraft engine, propeller, or article that is manufactured under this part if it conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation.  
(b) A new aircraft engine, propeller, or article need not meet a requirement of paragraph (a) of this section if—
Federal Aviation Administration, DOT § 21.435

(1) The importing country or jurisdiction accepts, in a form and manner acceptable to the FAA, a deviation from that requirement; and

(2) The export airworthiness approval lists as an exception any difference between the aircraft engine, propeller, or article to be exported and its approved design.

(c) A person may obtain from the FAA an export airworthiness approval to export a used aircraft engine, propeller, or article if it conforms to its approved design and is in a condition for safe operation.

(d) A used aircraft engine or propeller need not meet a requirement of paragraph (c) of this section if—

(1) The importing country or jurisdiction accepts, in a form and manner acceptable to the FAA, a deviation from that requirement; and

(2) The export airworthiness approval lists as an exception any difference between the used aircraft engine or propeller to be exported and its approved design.

§ 21.335 Responsibilities of exporters.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the importing country or jurisdiction, each exporter must—

(a) Forward to the importing country or jurisdiction all documents specified by that country or jurisdiction;

(b) Preserve and package products and articles as necessary to protect them against corrosion and damage during transit or storage and state the duration of effectiveness of such preservation and packaging;

(c) Remove or cause to be removed any temporary installation incorporated on an aircraft for the purpose of export delivery and restore the aircraft to the approved configuration upon completion of the delivery flight;

(d) Secure all proper foreign entry clearances from all the countries or jurisdictions involved when conducting sales demonstrations or delivery flights; and

(e) When title to an aircraft passes or has passed to a foreign purchaser—

(1) Request cancellation of the U.S. registration and airworthiness certificates from the FAA, giving the date of transfer of title, and the name and address of the foreign owner;

(2) Return the Registration and Airworthiness Certificates to the FAA; and

(3) Provide a statement to the FAA certifying that the U.S. identification and registration numbers have been removed from the aircraft in compliance with § 45.33.

Subpart M—Designated Alteration Station Authorization Procedures

SOURCE: Amdt. 21–6, 30 FR 11379, Sept. 8, 1965; 30 FR 11849, Sept. 16, 1965, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.431 Applicability.

(a) This subpart prescribes Designated Alteration Station (DAS) authorization procedures for—

(1) Issuing supplemental type certificates;

(2) Issuing experimental certificates; and

(3) Amending standard airworthiness certificates.

(b) This subpart applies to domestic repair stations, air carriers, commercial operators of large aircraft, and manufacturers of products.


§ 21.435 Application.

(a) An applicant for a Designated Alteration Station authorization must submit an application, in writing and signed by an official of the applicant, to the Aircraft Certification Office responsible for the geographic area in which the applicant is located. The application must contain:

(1) The repair station certificate number held by the repair station applicant, and the current ratings covered by the certificate;

(2) The air carrier or commercial operator operating certificate number held by the air carrier or commercial operator applicant, and the products it may operate and maintain under the certificate;

(3) A statement by the manufacturer applicant of the products for which he holds the type certificate;

(4) The names, signatures, and titles of the persons for whom authorization to issue supplemental type certificates
or experimental certificates, or amend airworthiness certificates, is requested; and

(5) A description of the applicant’s facilities, and of the staff with which compliance with §21.439(a)(4) is to be shown.

(b) After November 14, 2006, the Administrator will no longer accept applications for a Designated Alteration Station authorization.

(c) After November 14, 2009, no person may perform any function contained in a Designated Alteration Station authorization issued under this subpart.


§ 21.439 Eligibility.

(a) To be eligible for a DAS authorization, the applicant must—

(1) Hold a current domestic repair station certificate under Part 145, or air carrier or commercial operator operating certificate under Part 121;

(2) Be a manufacturer of a product for which it has alteration authority under §43.3(i) of this subchapter;

(3) Have adequate maintenance facilities and personnel, in the United States, appropriate to the products that it may operate and maintain under its certificate; and

(4) Employ, or have available, a staff of engineering, flight test, and inspection personnel who can determine compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter.

(b) At least one member of the staff required by paragraph (a)(4) of this section must have all of the following qualifications:

(1) A thorough working knowledge of the applicable requirements of this chapter.

(2) A position, on the applicant’s staff, with authority to establish alteration programs that ensure that altered products meet the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter.

(3) Have adequate maintenance facilities and personnel, in the United States, appropriate to the products that it may operate and maintain under its certificate; and

(4) Employ, or have available, a staff of engineering, flight test, and inspection personnel who can determine compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter.

(b) At least one member of the staff required by paragraph (a)(4) of this section must have all of the following qualifications:

(1) A thorough working knowledge of the applicable requirements of this chapter.

(2) A position, on the applicant’s staff, with authority to establish alteration programs that ensure that altered products meet the applicable requirements of this chapter.

(3) Have adequate maintenance facilities and personnel, in the United States, appropriate to the products that it may operate and maintain under its certificate; and

(4) Employ, or have available, a staff of engineering, flight test, and inspection personnel who can determine compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter.


(a) No DAS may exercise any authority under this subpart unless it submits, and obtains approval of, a procedure manual containing—

(1) The procedures for issuing STCs; and

(2) The names, signatures, and responsibilities of officials and of each staff member required by §21.439(a)(4), identifying those persons who—

(i) Have authority to make changes in procedures that require a revision to the procedure manual; and

(ii) Are to conduct inspections (including conformity and compliance inspections) or approve inspection reports, prepare or approve data, plan or conduct tests, approve the results of tests, amend airworthiness certificates, issue experimental certificates, approve changes to operating limitations or Aircraft Flight Manuals, and sign supplemental type certificates.

(b) No DAS may continue to perform any DAS function affected by any change in facilities or staff necessary to continue to meet the requirements of §21.439, or affected by any change in procedures from those approved under paragraph (a) of this section, unless that change is approved and entered in the manual. For this purpose, the manual shall contain a log-of-revisions page with space for the identification of each revised item, page, or date, and the signature of the person approving the change for the Administrator.

§ 21.443 Duration.

(a) A DAS authorization is effective until it is surrendered or the Administrator suspends, revokes, or otherwise terminates it.

(b) The DAS shall return the authorization certificate to the Administrator when it is no longer effective.
The DAS shall continue to meet the requirements for issue of the authorization or shall notify the Administrator within 48 hours of any change (including a change of personnel) that could affect the ability of the DAS to meet those requirements.

§ 21.447 Transferability.
A DAS authorization is not transferable.

§ 21.449 Inspections.
Upon request, each DAS and each applicant shall let the Administrator inspect his facilities, products, and records.

§ 21.451 Limits of applicability.
(a) DAS authorizations apply only to products—
(1) Covered by the ratings of the repair station applicant;
(2) Covered by the operating certificate and maintenance manual of the air carrier or commercial operator applicant; and
(3) For which the manufacturer applicant has alteration authority under §43.3(i) of this subchapter.
(b) DAS authorizations may be used for—
(1) The issue of supplemental type certificates;
(2) The issue of experimental certificates for aircraft that—
(i) Are altered by the DAS under a supplemental type certificate issued by the DAS; and
(ii) Require flight tests in order to show compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter; and
(3) The amendment of standard airworthiness certificates for aircraft altered under this subpart.
(c) DAS authorizations are subject to any additional limitations prescribed by the Administrator after inspection of the applicant’s facilities or review of the staff qualifications.
(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart, a DAS may not issue a supplemental type certificate involving the exhaust emissions change requirements of part 34 or the acoustical change requirements of part 36 of this chapter until the Administrator finds that those requirements are met.


§ 21.461 Equivalent safety provisions.
The DAS shall obtain the Administrator’s concurrence on the application of all equivalent safety provisions applied under §21.21.

§ 21.463 Supplemental type certificates.
(a) For each supplemental type certificate issued under this subpart, the DAS shall follow the procedure manual prescribed in §21.441 and shall, before issuing the certificate—
(1) Submit to the Administrator a statement describing—
(i) The type design change;
(ii) The airworthiness requirements of this chapter (by part and effective date) that the DAS considers applicable; and
(iii) The proposed program for meeting the applicable airworthiness requirements;
(2) Find that each applicable airworthiness requirement is met; and
(3) Find that the type of product for which the STC is to be issued, as modified by the supplemental type design data upon which the STC is based, is of proper design for safe operation.
(b) Within 30 days after the date of issue of the STC, the DAS shall submit to the Administrator—
(1) Two copies of the STC;
(2) One copy of the design data approved by the DAS and referred to in the STC;
(3) One copy of each inspection and test report; and
(4) Two copies of each revision to the Aircraft Flight Manual or to the operating limitations, and any other information necessary for safe operation of the product.

§ 21.473 Airworthiness certificates other than experimental.
For each amendment made to a standard airworthiness certificate under this subpart, the DAS shall follow the procedure manual prescribed in
§ 21.441 and shall, before making that amendment—
(a) Complete each flight test necessary to meet the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter;
(b) Find that each applicable airworthiness requirement of this chapter is met; and
(c) Find that the aircraft is in condition for safe operation.

§ 21.475 Experimental certificates.

The DAS shall, before issuing an experimental certificate, obtain from the Administrator any limitations and conditions that the Administrator considers necessary for safety.

§ 21.477 Data review and service experience.

(a) If the Administrator finds that a product for which an STC was issued under this subpart does not meet the applicable airworthiness requirements, or that an unsafe feature or characteristic caused by a defect in design or manufacture exists, the DAS, upon notification by the Administrator, shall investigate the matter and report to the Administrator the results of the investigation and the action, if any, taken or proposed.

(b) If corrective action by the user of the product is necessary for safety because of any noncompliance or defect specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the DAS shall submit the information necessary for the issue of an Airworthiness Directive under Part 39.

§ 21.493 Current records.

(a) The DAS shall maintain, at its facility, current records containing—
(1) For each product for which it has issued an STC under this subpart, a technical data file that includes any data and amendments thereto (including drawings, photographs, specifications, instructions, and reports) necessary for the STC;
(2) A list of products by make, model, manufacturer’s serial number and, if applicable, any FAA identification, that have been altered under the DAS authorization; and
(3) A file of information from all available sources on alteration difficulties of products altered under the DAS authorization.

(b) The records prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section shall be—
(1) Made available by the DAS, upon the Administrator’s request, for examination by the Administrator at any time; and
(2) In the case of the data file prescribed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, identified by the DAS and sent to the Administrator as soon as the DAS no longer operates under this subpart.

Subpart N—Acceptance of Aircraft Engines, Propellers, and Articles for Import

SOURCE: 74 FR 53392, Oct. 16, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.500 Acceptance of aircraft engines and propellers.

An aircraft engine or propeller manufactured in a foreign country or jurisdiction meets the requirements for acceptance under this subchapter if—
(a) That country or jurisdiction is subject to the provisions of an agreement with the United States for the acceptance of that product;
(b) That product is marked in accordance with part 43 of this chapter; and
(c) The holder or licensee of a U.S. type certificate for that product furnishes with each such aircraft engine or propeller imported into the United States, an export airworthiness approval issued in accordance with the provisions of that agreement certifying that the individual aircraft engine or propeller—
(1) Conforms to its U.S. type certificate and is in condition for safe operation; and
(2) Has been subjected by the manufacturer to a final operational check.

§ 21.502 Acceptance of articles.

An article (including an article produced under a letter of TSO design approval) manufactured in a foreign country or jurisdiction meets the requirements for acceptance under this subchapter if—
(a) That country or jurisdiction is subject to the provisions of an agreement with the United States for the acceptance of that article;
(b) That article is marked in accordance with part 45 of this chapter; and
(c) An export airworthiness approval has been issued in accordance with the provisions of that agreement for that article for import into the United States.

Subpart O—Technical Standard Order Authorizations

SOURCE: Docket No. 19589, 45 FR 38346, June 9, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Docket No. FAA-2006-25877, 74 FR 53392, Oct. 16, 2009, subpart O of part 21 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The effective date of this revision was subsequently postponed to Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the new subpart O follows the text of this subpart.

§ 21.601 Applicability.
(a) This subpart prescribes—
(1) Procedural requirements for the issue of Technical Standard Order authorizations;
(2) Rules governing the holders of Technical Standard Order authorizations; and
(3) Procedural requirements for the issuance of a letter of Technical Standard Order design approval.
(b) For the purpose of this subpart—
(1) A Technical Standard Order (referred to in this subpart as “TSO”) is issued by the Administrator and is a minimum performance standard for specified articles (for the purpose of this subpart, articles means materials, parts, processes, or appliances) used on civil aircraft.
(2) A TSO authorization is an FAA design and production approval issued to the manufacturer of an article which has been found to meet a specific TSO.
(3) A letter of TSO design approval is an FAA design approval for a foreign-manufactured article which has been found to meet a specific TSO.
(4) An article manufactured under a TSO authorization, an FAA letter of acceptance as described in §21.617, or an appliance manufactured under a letter of TSO design approval described in §21.617 is an approved article or appliance for the purpose of meeting the regulations of this chapter that require the article to be approved.
(5) An article manufacturer is the person who controls the design and quality of the article produced (or to be produced, in the case of an application), including the parts of them and any processes or services related to them that are procured from an outside source.
(c) The Administrator does not issue a TSO authorization if the manufacturing facilities for the product are located outside of the United States, unless the Administrator finds that the location of the manufacturer’s facilities places no undue burden on the FAA in administering applicable airworthiness requirements.

§ 21.603 TSO marking and privileges.
(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section and §21.617(c), no person may identify an article with a TSO marking unless that person holds a TSO authorization and the article meets applicable TSO performance standards.
(b) The holder of an FAA letter of acceptance of a statement of conformance issued for an article before July 1, 1962, or any TSO authorization issued after July 1, 1962, may continue to manufacture that article without obtaining a new TSO authorization but shall comply with the requirements of §§21.3, 21.607 through 21.615, 21.619, and 21.621.
(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, after August 6, 1976, no person may identify or mark an article with any of the following TSO numbers:
(1) TSO-C18, -C18a, -C18b, -C18c.
(2) TSO-C24.
(3) TSO-C33.
(4) TSO-C61 or -C61a.

§ 21.605 Application and issue.
(a) The manufacturer (or an authorized agent) shall submit an application for a TSO authorization, together with the following documents, to the Manager of the Aircraft Certification Office for the geographic area in which the applicant is located:
(1) A statement of conformance certifying that the applicant has met the requirements of this subpart and that

Each manufacturer of an article for which a TSO authorization has been issued under this part shall—

(a) Manufacture the article in accordance with this part and the applicable TSO;

(b) Conduct all required tests and inspections and establish and maintain a quality control system adequate to ensure that the article meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and is in condition for safe operation;

(c) Prepare and maintain, for each model of each article for which a TSO authorization has been issued, a current file of complete technical data and records in accordance with §21.613; and

(d) Permanently and legibly mark each article to which this section applies with the following information:

(1) The name and address of the manufacturer.

(2) The name, type, part number, or model designation of the article.

(3) The serial number or the date of manufacture of the article or both.

(4) The applicable TSO number.

§ 21.609 Approval for deviation.

(a) Each manufacturer who requests approval to deviate from any performance standard of a TSO shall show that the standards from which a deviation is requested are compensated for by factors or design features providing an equivalent level of safety.

(b) The request for approval to deviate, together with all pertinent data, must be submitted to the Manager of the Aircraft Certification Office for the geographic area in which the manufacturer is located. If the article is manufactured in another country, the request for approval to deviate, together with all pertinent data, must be submitted through the civil aviation authority in that country to the FAA.

§ 21.611 Design changes.

(a) Minor changes by the manufacturer holding a TSO authorization. The manufacturer of an article under an authorization issued under this part may make minor design changes (any change other than a major change) without further approval by the Administrator. In this case, the changed article keeps the original model number (part numbers may be used to identify minor changes) and the manufacturer shall forward to the appropriate

VerDate Mar<15>2010 14:10 Mar 01, 2011 Jkt 223043 PO 00000 Frm 00188 Fmt 8010 Sfmt 8002 Y:

178
§ 21.615 FAA inspection.

Upon the request of the Administrator, each manufacturer of an article under a TSO authorization shall allow the Administrator to—

(a) Inspect any article manufactured under that authorization;
(b) Inspect the manufacturer’s quality control system;
(c) Witness any tests;
(d) Inspect the manufacturing facilities; and
(e) Inspect the technical data files on that article.


(a) A letter of TSO design approval may be issued for an appliance that is manufactured in a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement for the acceptance of these appliances for export and import and that is to be imported into the United States if—

1. The country in which the appliance was manufactured certifies that the appliance has been examined, tested, and found to meet the applicable TSO designated in §21.305(b) or the applicable performance standards of the country in which the appliance was manufactured and any other performance standards the Administrator may prescribe to provide a level of safety equivalent to that provided by the TSO designated in §21.305(b); and

2. The manufacturer has submitted one copy of the technical data required in the applicable performance standard through its civil aviation authority.

(b) The letter of TSO design approval will be issued by the Administrator and must list any deviation granted to the manufacturer under §21.609.

(c) After the Administrator has issued a letter of TSO design approval and the country of manufacture issues a Certificate of Airworthiness for Export as specified in §21.502(a), the manufacturer shall be authorized to identify the appliance with the TSO marking requirements described in §21.607(d) and in the applicable TSO. Each appliance must be accompanied by a Certificate of Airworthiness for Export as specified in §21.502(a) issued by the country of manufacture.
§ 21.619 Noncompliance.

The Administrator may, upon notice, withdraw the TSO authorization or letter of TSO design approval of any manufacturer who identifies with a TSO marking an article not meeting the performance standards of the applicable TSO.

§ 21.621 Transferability and duration.

A TSO authorization or letter of TSO design approval issued under this part is not transferable and is effective until surrendered, withdrawn, or otherwise terminated by the Administrator.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: By Amdt. No. 21-92, 74 FR 53392, Oct. 16, 2009, § 21.621 was revised, effective Apr. 14, 2010. The section heading for § 21.621 was subsequently revised, effective Apr. 16, 2011 at 75 FR 9095, Mar. 1, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

Subpart O—Technical Standard Order Approvals

§ 21.601 Applicability and definitions.

(a) This subpart prescribes—

(1) Procedural requirements for issuing TSO authorizations;

(2) Rules governing the holders of TSO authorizations; and

(3) Procedural requirements for issuing letters of TSO design approval.

(b) For the purposes of this subpart—

(1) A TSO issued by the FAA is a minimum performance standard for specified articles used on civil aircraft;

(2) A TSO authorization is an FAA design and production approval issued to the manufacturer of an article that has been found to meet a specific TSO;

(3) A letter of TSO design approval is an FAA design approval for an article that has been found to meet a specific TSO in accordance with the procedures of § 21.621;

(4) An article manufactured under a TSO authorization, an FAA letter of acceptance as described in § 21.613(b), or an article manufactured under a letter of TSO design approval described in § 21.621 is an approved article for the purpose of meeting the regulations of this chapter that require the article to be approved; and

(5) An article manufacturer is the person who controls the design and quality of the article produced (or to be produced, in the case of an application), including any related parts, processes, or services procured from an outside source.

§ 21.603 Application.

(a) An applicant for a TSO authorization must apply to the appropriate aircraft certification office in the form and manner prescribed by the FAA. The applicant must include the following documents in the application:

(1) A statement of conformance certifying that the applicant has met the requirements of this subpart and that the article concerned meets the applicable TSO that is effective on the date of application for that article.

(2) One copy of the technical data required in the applicable TSO.

(b) If the applicant anticipates a series of minor changes in accordance with § 21.619, the applicant may set forth in its application the basic model number of the article and the part number of the components with open brackets after it to denote that suffix change letters or numbers (or combinations of them) will be added from time to time.

(c) If the application is deficient, the applicant must, when requested by the FAA, provide any additional information necessary to show compliance with this part. If the applicant fails to provide the additional information within 30 days after the FAA’s request, the FAA denies the application and notifies the applicant.

§ 21.605 Organization.

Each applicant for or holder of a TSO authorization must provide the FAA with a document describing how the applicant’s organization will ensure compliance with the provisions of this subpart. At a minimum, the document must describe assigned responsibilities and delegated authority, and the functional relationship of those responsible for quality to management and other organizational components.

§ 21.607 Quality system.

Each applicant for or holder of a TSO authorization must establish a quality system that meets the requirements of § 21.137.


Each applicant for or holder of a TSO authorization must provide a manual describing its quality system to the FAA for approval. The manual must be in the English language and retrievable in a form acceptable to the FAA.
§ 21.610 Inspections and tests.
Each applicant for or holder of a TSO authorization must allow the FAA to inspect its quality system, facilities, technical data, and any manufactured articles and witness any tests, including any inspections or tests at a supplier facility, necessary to determine compliance with this subchapter.

§ 21.611 Issuance.
If the FAA finds that the applicant complies with the requirements of this subchapter, the FAA issues a TSO authorization to the applicant (including all TSO deviations granted to the applicant).

§ 21.613 Duration.
(a) A TSO authorization or letter of TSO design approval is effective until surrendered, withdrawn, or otherwise terminated by the FAA.
(b) If a TSO is revised or canceled, the holder of an affected FAA letter of acceptance of a statement of conformance, TSO authorization, or letter of TSO design approval may continue to manufacture articles that meet the original TSO without obtaining a new acceptance, authorization, or approval but must comply with the requirements of this chapter.

§ 21.614 Transferability.
The holder of a TSO authorization or letter of TSO design approval may not transfer the TSO authorization or letter of TSO design approval.

§ 21.616 Responsibility of holder.
Each holder of a TSO authorization must—
(a) Amend the document required by § 21.606 as necessary to reflect changes in the organization and provide these amendments to the FAA;
(b) Maintain a quality system in compliance with the data and procedures approved for the TSO authorization;
(c) Ensure that each manufactured article conforms to its approved design, is in a condition for safe operation, and meets the applicable TSO;
(d) Mark the TSO article for which an approval has been issued. Marking must be in accordance with part 49 of this chapter, including any critical parts;
(e) Identify any portion of the TSO article (e.g., sub-assemblies, component parts, or replacement articles) that leaves the manufacturer's facility as FAA approved with the manufacturer's part number and name, trademark, symbol, or other FAA approved manufacturer's identification;
(f) Have access to design data necessary to determine conformity and airworthiness for each article produced under the TSO authorization. The manufacturer must retain this data until it no longer manufactures the article. At that time, copies of the data must be sent to the FAA;
(g) Retain its TSO authorization and make it available to the FAA upon request; and
(h) Make available to the FAA information regarding all delegation of authority to suppliers.

§ 21.618 Approval for deviation.
(a) Each manufacturer who requests approval to deviate from any performance standard of a TSO must show that factors or design features providing an equivalent level of safety compensate for the standards from which a deviation is requested.
(b) The manufacturer must send requests for approval to deviate, together with all pertinent data, to the appropriate aircraft certification office. If the article is manufactured under the authority of a foreign country or jurisdiction, the manufacturer must send requests for approval to deviate, together with all pertinent data, through the civil aviation authority of that country or jurisdiction to the FAA.

§ 21.619 Design changes.
(a) Minor changes by the manufacturer holding a TSO authorization. The manufacturer of an article under an authorization issued under this part may make minor design changes (any change other than a major change) without further approval by the FAA. In this case, the changed article keeps the original model number (part numbers may be used to identify minor changes) and the manufacturers must forward to the appropriate aircraft certification office, any revised data that are necessary for compliance with § 21.606(b).
(b) Major changes by the manufacturer holding a TSO authorization. Any design change by the manufacturer extensive enough to require a substantially complete investigation to determine compliance with a TSO is a major change. Before making a major change, the manufacturer must assign a new type or model designation to the article and apply for an authorization under § 21.603.
(c) Changes by persons other than the manufacturer. No design change by any person (other than the manufacturer who provided the statement of conformance for the article) is eligible for approval under this part unless the person seeking the approval is a manufacturer and applies under §21.603(a) for a separate TSO authorization. Persons other than a manufacturer may obtain approval for design changes under part 43 or under the applicable airworthiness regulations of this chapter.

§ 21.620 Changes in quality system.
After the issuance of a TSO authorization—
(a) Each change to the quality system is subject to review by the FAA; and
(b) The holder of the TSO authorization must immediately notify the FAA, in writing, of any change that may affect the inspection, conformity, or airworthiness of its article.

§ 21.621 Issuance of letters of TSO design approval: import articles.
(a) The FAA may issue a letter of TSO design approval for an article—
(1) Designed and manufactured in a foreign country or jurisdiction subject to the export provisions of an agreement with the United States for the acceptance of these articles for import; and
(2) For import into the United States if—
(i) The State of Design certifies that the article has been examined, tested, and found to meet the applicable TSO or the applicable performance standards of the State of Design and any other performance standards the FAA may prescribe to provide a level of safety equivalent to that provided by the TSO; and
(ii) The manufacturer has provided to the FAA one copy of the technical data required in the applicable performance standard through its State of Design.
(b) The FAA issues the letter of TSO design approval that lists any deviation granted under §21.618.

PART 23—AIRWORTHINESS STANDARDS: NORMAL, UTILITY, ACROBATIC, AND COMMUTER CATEGORY AIRPLANES

Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 23

Subpart A—General

Sec.
23.1 Applicability.
23.2 Special retroactive requirements.
23.3 Airplane categories.