

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.322

National Policy

Effective Date:
9/3/15

Cancellation Date:
9/3/16

SUBJ: Withdrawal of Aviation Safety Inspector Requirements and Procedures for Use of the Minimum Equipment List Currency Tracking System

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces the withdrawal of the requirement for aviation safety inspectors (ASI) to use the Web-based minimum equipment list (MEL) tracking system known as “Field Office Workspace.” The purpose of this system was to track the currency of approved MELs with their parent Master Minimum Equipment List (MMEL) for certificate holders and program managers operating under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 125, and 135, and part 129 foreign air carriers authorized operations under § 129.14.

Note: The use of the term “operator” in this notice refers to those certificate holders, program managers, and foreign air carriers conducting aircraft operations under parts 91K, 121, 125, 129, and 135, unless otherwise specified.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and certificate management office (CMO) ASIs with oversight responsibility of aircraft operators. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management Systems (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background.

a. General. MMELs are the base documents from which all MELs are developed. Operators must keep MELs current with respect to their parent MMEL documents to ensure that the most current information is being applied to the allowed relief, and that the required equivalent level of safety is being maintained. For the past several years, the FAA has used Web-based systems such as Dynacom (FAA.net) and the Field Office Workspace to monitor, track, and report MEL currency.

b. History.

(1) The original Web-based system developed to monitor the currency of MELs was through the use of Dynacom (FAA.net). In 2010, a new system called “Field Office Workspace” was fielded by the FAA Aircraft Evaluation Groups (AEG) to replace the Dynacom system. The FAA released Notice N 8900.125, Tracking Currency of Operators’ Approved Minimum Equipment Lists Using the Aircraft Evaluation Group System, on June 19, 2010, which gave general guidance for use of the AEG system. On January 10, 2013, the FAA released N 8900.203, Aviation Safety Inspector Requirements and Procedures for Use of the Minimum Equipment List Currency Tracking System, which made the use of the Field Office Workspace a requirement for monitoring and reporting MEL currency. The information found in N 8900.203 was not incorporated into FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS). The notice expired on January 10, 2014.

(2) Since the release of Notice N 8900.203, several issues have been identified that call into question both the timeliness and accuracy of the Field Office Workspace system, and the validity of the reporting it provides. Because these issues have not been rectified, a decision has been made to decommission the system.

5. Guidance.

a. Field Office Workspace System. Inspectors will discontinue use of the Field Office Workspace system. All requirements associated with its use are withdrawn. The system will be inaccessible on or about September 30, 2015.

b. Monitor MEL Currency. All ASIs with oversight responsibility of operator MELs will continue to monitor MEL currency using requirements and procedures established by local office policy. The most current MMELs are available on the FSIMS under the Publications tab.

c. MEL Currency Requirements. The MEL currency requirements found in Order 8900.1, Volume 4, Chapter 4, Minimum Equipment Lists (MEL) and Configuration Deviation Lists (CDL), remain unchanged. The withdrawal of the Field Office Workspace system has no effect on MEL currency requirements.

6. Disposition. This information will not be incorporated into Order 8900.1. Please direct questions regarding this notice to the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) at 202-267-8166.

ORIGINAL SIGNED by

/s/ John Barbagallo
Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service