



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: Sep 13 2016

To: Directorate Offices and Aircraft Certification Offices (ACOs)

From: Richard E. Jennings, Acting Manager, Design, Manufacturing & Airworthiness Division, AIR-100

Prepared by: Robert Sprayberry, Certification Procedures Branch, AIR-110

Subject: Designated Engineering Representative (DER) authority for Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA) critical parts approval

Memo: AIR100-16-110-PM08

Regulatory and Policy Ref.: 14 CFR part 21, Subpart K, and FAA Order 8110.42D

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Jennings".

Background

ASW-140 has brought to the attention of AIR-110 that there is a discrepancy in guidance between Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8110.42D: *Parts Manufacturer Approval Procedures* and FAA Order 8110.37E: *DER Handbook*.

Issue requiring policy clarification

A misplaced note in Order 8110.42D unintentionally limits DERs abilities for finding compliance on PMA via test reports and computations articles that are identified as critical parts. This memorandum clarifies that the PMA Order will defer to the established and correct guidance within Order 8110.37E in this case.

Policy and Guidance

FAA Order 8110.42D, page 4-1, Section 4-2 DER Roles in the PMA Process, contains a note following the paragraph. The guidance states in full: "*NOTE: A DER may only recommend approval within the scope of their authority for critical parts*". This note was mistakenly left in section 4-2 during the drafting process for revision D. To correct this error, this memo hereby confirms that the highlighted note should actually be placed within Section 4-4 Identity Provisions of the Order. With this correction, the note, as stated, is in line with the DER Handbook and previous PMA guidance.

Summary

For PMA via identity, any DER possessing the requisite delegation is limited to only recommending approval when the article in question is a critical part as defined within the PMA policy. Authorized DERs may fully approve technical data to find compliance for PMA critical parts via test and computation. This correction of Order 8110.42D pertaining to DER authority limitations will be incorporated in its next change. If you require any additional information or have questions concerning this memorandum, contact Robert Sprayberry at robert.sprayberry@faa.gov or at 202-267-1575.