



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Memorandum

Federal Aviation Administration

Subject: INFORMATION: Procedures for Approving Production Airplanes to Perform Flight Testing within Airspace Allocated for Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Operations

Date: 1/13/05

From: Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division, AIR-100
Manager, Production and Airworthiness Division, AIR-200
Manager, Air Transportation Division, AFS-200
Manager, Aircraft Maintenance Division, AFS-300
Manager, Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, AFS-400

To: All Directorates
Managers, Aircraft Certification Offices
Managers, Manufacturing Inspection District Offices
Managers, Certificate Management Office
Managers, Flight Standards Regional Offices
Managers, Flight Standards District Offices
Managers, Aircraft Evaluation Groups
Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center
William J. Hughes Technical Center

BACKGROUND:

Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 91, sections 91.176 and 91.180 require that authorization is necessary to operate an aircraft in airspace where reduced vertical separation minimum is applied.

It has been determined that airplane manufacturers seeking RVSM approval employ FAA-approved quality assurance procedures and practices that satisfy operational safety and airworthiness criteria necessary to meet the intent of 14 CFR part 91, appendix G. Aircraft Certification Service and the Flight Standards Service agree manufacturers of airplanes intended to be certificated for operation in RVSM airspace do not need to obtain a specific LOA in order to conduct flights within RVSM airspace while their airplanes are under their approved quality assurance and maintenance procedures and practices. Upon the issuance of a Standard Airworthiness Certificate the operator must obtain authorization from their local FSDO prior to operating the aircraft in RVSM airspace.

Best Practices

Detailed guidance will be available on Aircraft Certification's Web site at (www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft) under Best Practices (AIR-200).

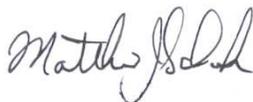
DIRECTIVE:

Under the direction of the signatories below, this Memorandum shall serve the purpose of authorizing manufacturers of aircraft under their approved quality assurance and maintenance procedures and practices to conduct flights into RVSM airspace.

Respectfully,



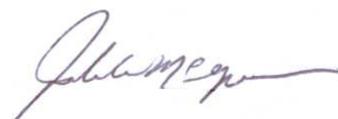
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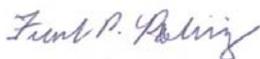
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