



Technical Standard Order

Subject: TSO-C52b, FLIGHT DIRECTOR EQUIPMENT

a. Applicability.

(1) Minimum Performance Standards. This Technical Standard Order (TSO) prescribes the minimum performance standards that flight director equipment must meet in order to be identified with the applicable TSO marking. Flight director equipment that are to be so identified and that are manufactured on or after the date of this TSO must meet the standards set forth in the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc. (SAE) Aerospace Standard (AS) 8008, "Flight Director Equipment," reaffirmed May 1991, as amended and supplemented by this TSO.

(2) Environmental Standards. The equipment shall be subject to the test conditions as specified in RTCA Document No. DO-160C, "Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment," dated December 4, 1989.

(3) Software. If the equipment design includes a digital computer, the software must be developed in accordance with RTCA Document No. DO-178B, "Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification," dated December 1, 1992. In accordance with RTCA/DO-178B, Paragraph 9.3, the applicant must submit the following document to the Manager, Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), having purview of the manufacturer's facilities, for review and approval:

Plan for Software Aspects of Certification (PSAC)
Software Configuration Index
Software Accomplishment Summary

All data supporting the applicable objectives found in Annex A, Process Objectives and Outputs by Software Level, must be available for review. For software developed prior to the availability of RTCA/DO-178B, Section 12.1.4 provides a method for upgrading a baseline for software development so that changes can be made in accordance with the criteria contained in RTCA/DO-178B.

NOTE 1: The FAA recommends that the PSAC be submitted early in the software development process. Early submittal will allow the applicant to resolve issues with

the Software Aspects of Certification Plan such as partitioning and determination of software levels.

NOTE 2: The applicant should substantiate software levels in the safety assessment process outlined in RTCA/DO-178B. If the equipment incorporates more than one software level, appropriate partitioning of different software levels is required. As an alternative to substantiating the software level(s) in a safety assessment, the applicant may develop all software that affects navigation and integrity functions to at least the Level C criteria.

b. Marking.

(1) To comply with 14 Code of Federal Aviation Regulation (CFR) Section 21.607 (d), the technical standard order authorization (TSOA) holder shall identify the software and hardware with the part number, or shall utilize a separate part number that identifies the software and hardware. The part number shall include the software version and level(s) in accordance with RTCA/DO-178B, and the modification status of the hardware (drawing revision or dash number).

NOTE: If multiple software levels are marked, the installation instructions must clearly identify the software level for each function.

(2) The TSOA holder shall legibly and permanently mark each separate, major component of equipment with the name of the manufacturer, the TSO number, and the part number, if the Administrator finds that such marking is necessary in the interests of safety.

(3) Nominal power input (electrical voltage and frequency).

c. Data Requirements.

(1) The following data are required by 14 CFR Section 21.605. The manufacturer must furnish the Manager, Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), Federal Aviation Administration, having purview of the manufacturer's facilities, one copy each of the following technical data:

- (i) Operating instructions and limitations.
- (ii) Installation procedures and limitations.
- (iii) Schematic drawings applicable to installation.
- (iv) Wiring diagrams applicable to the installation.
- (v) Specifications.

(vi) List of the major components (by part number) that make up the equipment system complying with the standards prescribed in this TSO.

(vii) An environmental qualification form as described in RTCA/DO-160C.

(viii) Manufacturer's TSO qualification test report.

(ix) Nameplate drawing.

(x) The appropriate documentation as defined in RTCA Document DO-178B.

(2) Each manufacturer must have available for review by the Manager of the ACO having purview of the manufacturer's facilities, the following technical data:

(i) A drawing list, enumerating all of the drawings and processes that define the article's design.

(ii) The functional test specification to be used to test each production article to ensure compliance with this TSO.

(iii) Equipment calibration procedures.

(iv) Corrective maintenance procedures (within 12 months after TSO authorization).

(v) Schematic drawings.

(vi) Wiring diagrams.

(vii) The results of the environmental qualification tests conducted in accordance with RTCA/DO-160C.

(3) Data to be furnished with manufactured units. One copy of the data and information specified in paragraphs (c) (1) (i) through (c) (1) (vii) of this TSO, and instructions for periodic maintenance and calibration which are necessary for continued airworthiness must be sent to each person receiving for use one or more articles manufactured under this TSO. In addition, a note with the following statement must be included:

“The conditions and test required for TSO approval of this article are minimum performance standards. It is the responsibility of those desiring to install the article either on or within a specific type or class of aircraft to demonstrate that the aircraft installation conditions are within the TSO standards. The article may be installed only if installation of the article is approved by the Administrator.”

d. Availability of Reference Documents.

(1) Copies of SAE AS 8008 may be purchased from the Society of Automotive Engineers Inc., Department 331, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, Pennsylvania 15096.

(2) Copies of RTCA Document Nos. DO-160C and DO-178B may be purchased from the RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036-4001.

(3) Code of Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 21, Subpart O may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

/S/ John K. McGrath
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Aircraft Certification Service