



Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
Aircraft Certification Service
Washington, D.C.

TSO-C121b

Effective
Date: 2/28/12

Technical Standard Order

Subject: Underwater Locating Devices (Acoustic) (Self-Powered)

1. **PURPOSE.** This technical standard order (TSO) is for manufacturers applying for a TSO authorization (TSOA) or letter of design approval (LODA). In it, we (the Federal Aviation Administration, (FAA)) tell you what minimum performance standards (MPS) your underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered) must first meet for approval and identification with the applicable TSO marking.
2. **APPLICABILITY.** This TSO affects new applications submitted after its effective date.
 - a. All prior revisions to this TSO are no longer effective. Generally, we will not accept applications for the previous revision after the effective date of this TSO. We may do so, however, up to six months after it, if we know that you were working against the prior MPS before the new change became effective.
 - b. Effective March 1, 2015 under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) § 21.613(a), we are withdrawing each TSO authorization and LODA that lets the holder identify or mark underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered) with TSO-C121 or TSO-C121a.
3. **REQUIREMENTS.** New models of underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered) identified and manufactured on or after the effective date of this TSO must meet the MPS qualification and documentation requirements in section 3 and 4 of SAE International's Aerospace Standard (AS) 8045a, *Minimum Performance Standard for Underwater Locating Devices (Acoustic) (Self-Powered)*, dated August, 2011. The battery used in the underwater locating device authorized under this TSO must meet the minimum performance standard found in an applicable battery TSO such as TSO-C142a, *Non-Rechargeable Lithium Cells and Batteries*.
 - a. **Functionality.** This TSO's standards apply to equipment intended to assist in finding flight data recorders, cockpit voice recorders, or aircraft.

b. Failure Condition Classifications.

- (1) Failure of the function defined in paragraph **3.a** of this TSO is a minor failure condition.
- (2) Loss of the function defined in paragraph **3.a** of this TSO is a minor failure condition.
- (3) Design the system to at least this failure condition classification.

c. Functional Qualification. Demonstrate the required functional performance under the test conditions specified in SAE Document AS8045a, sections 5 and 6.

d. Environmental Qualification.

(1) Demonstrate the required performance under the test conditions specified in AS8045a, section 5 using standard environmental conditions and test procedures appropriate for airborne equipment. You may use a different standard environmental condition and test procedure than RTCA/DO-160G, provided the standard is appropriate for the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered) equipment.

Note: The use of RTCA/DO-160D (with Changes 1 and 2 only, incorporated) or earlier versions is generally not considered appropriate and will require substantiation via the deviation process as discussed in paragraph **3.f** of this TSO.

(2) Demonstrate the saltwater immersion tests in SAE Document AS 8045a section 5.13 using a seawater solution meeting the requirements of ASTM D1141-98, *Standard Practice for the Preparation of Substitute Ocean Water*, dated 2008.

e. Software Qualification. If the article includes software, develop the software according to RTCA, Inc. document RTCA/DO-178B, *Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification*, dated December 1, 1992 to the design assurance level consistent with the failure condition classification defined in paragraph **3.b** of this TSO.

Note: The certification liaison process objectives will be considered satisfied after FAA review of the applicable life cycle data.

f. Deviations. We have provisions for using alternate or equivalent means of compliance to the criteria in the MPS of this TSO. If you invoke these provisions, you must show that your equipment maintains an equivalent level of safety. Apply for a deviation under the provision in 14 CFR § 21.618.

4. MARKING.

a. Mark at least one major component permanently and legibly with all the information in 14 CFR § 45.15(b). The marking must include the serial number.

b. Also, mark the following permanently and legibly, with at least the manufacturer's name, subassembly part number, and the TSO number:

(1) Each component that is easily removable (without hand tools), and

(2) Each subassembly of the article that you determined may be interchangeable.

c. If the article includes software and/or airborne electronic hardware, then the article part numbering scheme must identify the software and airborne electronic hardware configuration. The part numbering scheme can use separate, unique part numbers for software, hardware, and airborne electronic hardware.

d. You may use electronic part marking to identify software or airborne electronic hardware components by embedding the identification within the hardware component itself (using software) rather than marking it on the equipment nameplate. If electronic marking is used, it must be readily accessible without the use of special tools or equipment.

5. APPLICATION DATA REQUIREMENTS. You must give the FAA aircraft certification office (ACO) manager responsible for your facility a statement of conformance, as specified in 14 CFR § 21.603(a)(1) and one copy each of the following technical data to support your design and production approval. LODA applicants must submit the same data (excluding paragraph **5.g**) through their civil aviation authority.

a. A Manual(s) containing the following:

(1) Operating instructions and equipment limitations sufficient to describe the equipment's operational capability.

(2) Describe in detail any deviations.

(3) Installation procedures and limitations sufficient to ensure that the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered), when installed according to the installation procedures, still meets this TSO's requirements. Limitations must identify any unique aspects of the installation. The limitations must include a note with the following statement:

“This article meets the minimum performance and quality control standards required by a technical standard order (TSO).
Installation of this article requires separate approval.”

(4) For each unique configuration of software and airborne electronic hardware, reference the following:

- (a) Software part number including revision and design assurance level,
- (b) Airborne electronic hardware part number including revision and design assurance level; and,
- (c) Functional description.

(5) A summary of the test conditions used for environmental qualifications for each component of the article. For example, a form as described in RTCA/DO-160G, *Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment*, Appendix A.

(6) Schematic drawings, wiring diagrams, and any other documentation necessary for installation of the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered).

(7) List of replaceable components, by part number, that makes up the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered). Include vendor part number cross-references, when applicable.

b. Instructions covering periodic maintenance, calibration, and repair, for the continued airworthiness of the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered). Include recommended inspection intervals and service life, as appropriate.

c. If the article includes software: a plan for software aspects of certification (PSAC), software configuration index, and software accomplishment summary.

d. Nameplate drawing with the information required by paragraph 4 of this TSO.

e. Identify functionality or performance contained in the article not evaluated under paragraph 3 of this TSO (that is, non-TSO functions). Non-TSO functions are accepted in parallel with the TSO authorization. For those non-TSO functions to be accepted, you must declare these functions and include the following information with your TSO application:

(1) Description of the non-TSO function(s), such as performance specifications, failure condition classification, software, hardware, and environmental qualification levels. Include a statement confirming that the non-TSO function(s) don't interfere with the article's compliance with the requirements of paragraph 3.

(2) Installation procedures and limitations sufficient to ensure that the non-TSO function(s) meets the declared functions and performance specification(s) described in paragraph 5.f.(1).

(3) Instructions for continued performance applicable to the non-TSO function(s) described in paragraph 5.f.(1).

(4) Interface requirements and applicable installation test procedures to ensure compliance with the performance data defined in paragraph 5.f.(1).

(5) Test plans, analysis and results, as appropriate, to verify that performance of the hosting TSO article is not affected by the non-TSO function(s).

(6) Test plans, analysis and results, as appropriate, to verify the function and performance of the non-TSO function(s) as described in paragraph **5.f,(1)**.

f. The quality system description required by 14 CFR § 21.608, including functional test specifications. The quality system should ensure that you will detect any change to the approved design that could adversely affect compliance with the TSO MPS, and reject the article accordingly. (Not required for LODA applicants.)

g. Material and process specifications list.

h. List of all drawings and processes (including revision level) that define the article's design.

i. Manufacturer's TSO qualification report showing results of testing accomplished according to paragraphs **3.c** of this TSO.

6. MANUFACTURER DATA REQUIREMENTS. Besides the data given directly to the responsible ACO, have the following technical data available for review by the responsible ACO:

a. Functional qualification specifications for qualifying each production article to ensure compliance with this TSO.

b. Equipment calibration procedures.

c. Schematic drawings.

d. Wiring diagrams.

e. Material and process specifications.

f. The results of the environmental qualification tests conducted according to paragraph **3.d** of this TSO.

g. If the article includes software, the appropriate documentation defined in RTCA/DO-178B including all data supporting the applicable objectives in RTCA/DO-178B *Annex A, Process Objectives and Outputs by Software Level*.

h. If the article contains non-TSO function(s), you must also make available items **6.a** through **6.g** as they pertain to the non-TSO function(s).

7. FURNISHED DATA REQUIREMENTS.

a. If furnishing one or more articles manufactured under this TSO to one entity (such as an operator or repair station), provide one copy or on-line access to the data in paragraphs **5.a** and **5.b** of this TSO. Add any other data needed for the proper installation, certification, use, or for

continued compliance with the TSO, of the underwater locating devices (acoustic) (self-powered).

b. If the article contains declared non-TSO function(s), include one copy of the data in paragraphs **5.f.(1)** through **5.f.(4)**.

8. HOW TO GET REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.

a. Order RTCA documents from RTCA Inc., 1150 18th St, NW, Suite 910, Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 833-9339, fax (202) 833-9434. You can also order copies online at www.rtca.org.

b. Order SAE documents from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001. Telephone (724) 776-4970, fax (724) 776-0790. You can also order copies online at www.sae.org.

c. Order ASTM Documents ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, Tel: 610-832-9585, www.astm.org.

d. Order copies of 14 CFR Part 21 and Part 45 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Telephone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250. You can also order copies at the U.S. Government online bookstore at www.gpoaccess.gov.

e. You can find a current list of technical standard orders and advisory circulars on the FAA Internet website Regulatory and Guidance Library at <http://rgl.faa.gov/>. You will also find the TSO Index of Articles at the same site.



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