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January 29, 2015

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Mr. Steve Douglas  
Manager, Aircraft Maintenance Division, AFS-300  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Re: Repair Station Certificates – Amended versus New

Dear Mr. Douglas:

The repair station final rule, which became effective November 10, 2014, revised section [145.57\(b\)](#) to read:

If the holder of a repair station certificate sells or transfers its assets and the new owner chooses to operate as a repair station, the new owner must apply for an amended **or new** certificate in accordance with § [145.51](#). (Emphasis added).

The change was not anticipated by the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), and the stated purpose for the change in the preamble to the final rule was, “[t]he revision clarifies that a new owner will need to apply for a new certificate only if the new owner chooses to operate as a repair station.” However, by adding the words “or new” to the section, the change adds confusion rather than clarity.

In today’s environment the difference between an amended and a new certificate is significant. The FAA has a waiting time of up to two years for a new certificate. While ARSA appreciates that a certificate cannot be transferred, amending the certificate takes fewer resources for both the agency and industry. Thus, agency guidance should clarify when a new versus an amended certificate is required and emphasize the reality that if the housing, facilities, equipment and required personnel do not change, the administration of the asset transfer can be simple.

The sections of the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) listed below directly address changes and amendments to a repair station certificate. In the attached document we have taken the liberty of tracking suggested updates that distinguish when a repair station should submit a request for change, amendment or make an application for a new certificate. Our edits also remove the word “transfer” from the guidance since that action is prohibited in part 145 (even if the applicable section uses that word).

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8900.1, Volume 2, Chapter 11

- [Section 1](#), Introduction
  - 2-1182 General
- [Section 2](#), Procedures for Certificating Part 145 Repair Stations/Satellites Located Within the United States and Its Territories
  - 2-1213 The Certification Process
  - 2-1215 Amendment or Transfer of Certificate
- [Section 3](#), International Field Office Procedures for Certificating/Renewing/Amending a Part 145 Repair Station Located Outside the United States and its Territories and not Under a Maintenance Implementation Procedure
  - 2-1246 Amendment or Transfer of Certificate
  - 2-1267, Amendment—Preapplication Phase—Adding an Additional Rating

8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 34

- [Section 3, Amendment, Surrender, Suspension, Revocation, and Replacement of Air Operating or Air Agency Certificates](#)
  - 3-3633 Amendment of a Certificate: Operator-Initiated Amendment

[U.S.-Switzerland Maintenance Guidance](#)

- Part V Change/Amendment to the Approval

Sincerely,



Laura Vlieg  
Regulatory Affairs Manager

Regulations and Guidance cited: 14 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 145.51, 145.57 and 145.105; FAA Order 8900.1, Vol. 2, Ch. 11, Sections 1, 2 and 3; and Vol. 3, Ch. 34, Section 3; U.S.-Switzerland Maintenance Guidance, Part V

Attachments

cc: Patricia K. Williams, patricia.k.williams@faa.gov