

May 29, 2018

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John S. Duncan
Executive Director, Flight Standards Service
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 831
Washington DC 20553-0002

Re: Part 145 Letter of Compliance

Dear Mr. Duncan:

It has come to the attention of the undersigned that the agency's guidance material is contrary to the plain language of 14 CFR part 145 and the FAA's rulemaking documents regarding the above referenced issue.

In 2006, the FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on part 145 which included a requirement for "an applicant...to provide the FAA with a letter explaining how the applicant intends to comply with the requirements of part 145. Under longstanding FAA policy and practice, repair station certificate applicants have provided this letter that the FAA refers to as a "Letter of Compliance" (see, [71 FR 70256](#)).

In the 2009, that proposal was withdrawn (see [74 FR 21287](#)) with the following observation:

"We are withdrawing the December 2006 Repair Station NPRM because it does not adequately address the current repair station operating environment. Also, we are withdrawing it because of the many significant issues commenters to the NPRM raised, which the FAA needs to consider in developing a better proposal."

One of the areas where significant issues drew comment was the proposal for a "letter of compliance."

Notwithstanding the specific withdrawal of the need for a letter of compliance in rulemaking, the current Flight Standards Information Management System still "requires" the "long standing practice" of submitting such a letter during the application process (see, [Phase-1](#)—Preapplication with a "requirement" for a "Sample letter of compliance" and [Phase 2](#)—Formal Application, which "requires" the "formal attachments" described in Phase 1). More specifically, in one place of many, the "guidance" states:

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H. Compliance Statement.

1) The letter of compliance will ensure that the part [145](#) regulatory requirements are addressed during the certification process. This is accomplished by listing, in sequence, each section of part [145](#). After each section, include a brief narrative or specific reference to a manual/document that describes how the applicant will comply with that regulation. Review the letter of compliance to ensure that the applicant has a clear understanding of the regulation and that the proposed method of compliance meets the intent of the regulation.

2) Where the compliance information has been developed (for example, the manual material submitted with the formal application), a manual reference or description of the method of compliance must be entered next to the applicable regulatory section. (Emphasis added.)

Considering (1) the rulemaking procedure specifically declined to impose the requirement for an applicant to submit a letter of compliance and (2) the introduction of the data collection tools of the safety assurance system eliminates the need for such a document, we request the agency withdraw all references to a letter of compliance in its guidance material as soon as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sarah MacLeod
Executive Director
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
121 North Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2905
703.739.9543 ext. 114
sarah.macleod@arsa.org

Ric Peri
Vice President, Government & Industry
Affairs
Aircraft Electronics Association
601 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 900, South Building
Washington, DC 20004-3647
202.589.1144
ricp@aea.net

CC: Rick Domingo
Patricia Williams

rick.domingo@faa.gov
patricia.k.williams@faa.gov