TCDS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Type Certificate Data Sheets and Specifications (TCDS) set forth essential factors and other conditions which are necessary for U.S. airworthiness certification. Aircraft, engines, and propellers which conform to a U.S. type certificate (TC) are eligible for U.S. airworthiness certification when found to be in a condition for safe operation and ownership requisites are fulfilled.

There are two kinds of certification documents contained in the TCDS file:

(1) Type Certificate Data Sheets

(2) Specifications

"Type Certificate Data Sheets" were originated and first published in January 1958. FAR 21.41 indicates they are part of the type certificate. As such, a type certificate data sheet is evidence the product has been type certificated. Generally, type certificate data sheets are compiled from details supplied by the type certificate holder; however, FAA may request and incorporate additional details when conditions warrant.

"Specifications" were originated during implementation of the Air Commerce Act of 1926. Specifications are FAA recordkeeping documents issued for both type certificated and nontype-certificated products which have been found eligible for U.S. airworthiness certification. Although they are no longer issued, specifications remain in effect and will be further amended. Specifications covering type certificated products may be converted to type certificate data sheets at the option of the type certificate holder. However, to do so requires the type certificate holder to provide an equipment list. A specification is NOT part of a type certificate. Specifications are subdivided into five major groups as follows:

(1) Type Certificated Aircraft, Engines and Propellers. Covering standard, restricted and limited types issued for domestic, foreign, and military surplus products.

(2) Group II - Aircraft, Engine, and Propeller Approvals. Covering domestic, foreign, and military surplus products constructed or modified between October 1, 1927, and August 22, 1938, all of which have met minimum airworthiness requirements without formal type certification. Such products are eligible for standard airworthiness certification as though they are type certificated products.

(3) Group III - Aircraft, Engine, and Propeller Approvals. Covering domestic products manufactured prior to October 1, 1927, and foreign products manufactured prior to June 20, 1931, and certain military surplus engines and propellers all of which have met minimum airworthiness requirements of the Air Commerce Act of 1926 and implementing Air Commerce Regulations without formal type certification. Such products are eligible for standard airworthiness certification as though they are type certificated products.

(4) Group IV - Engine ratings. Covering unapproved engines rated for maximum power and speed only, their use being limited to specific aircraft with maximum gross weights less than 1,000 pounds. Such engines are not eligible for independent airworthiness certification. These ratings are no longer issued.

(5) Group V - Engine approvals. Covering military surplus engines meeting Civil Air Regulation (CAR) 13 design requirements without formal type certification. Such engines are eligible for airworthiness certification as though they are type certificated engines.

NOTE: Most products found in Groups II, III, and IV were approved prior to 1938. Although such products may still be eligible for U.S. airworthiness certification, they may require issuance of specific operating limitations. Specifications covering Groups II, III, IV, and V products may be recognized in two ways:

(1) An approval number which begins with 2- (sometimes A-2- or G-2-), 3-, 4-, or 5E-.

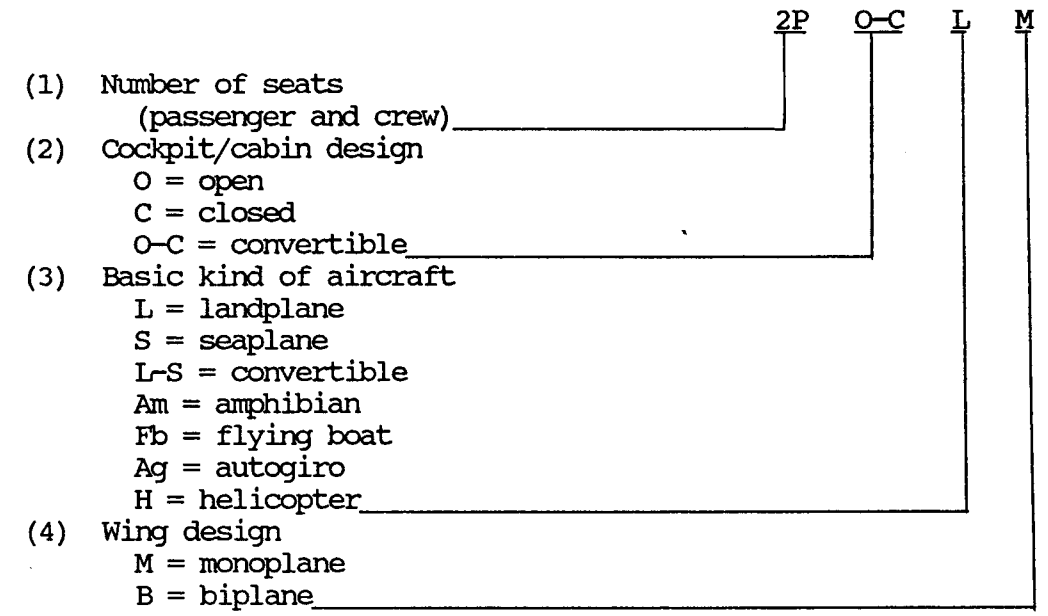
Specifications have also been used to record the approval of major alterations performed on any of the products for which they were issued. Such approvals are presently recorded on a "Supplemental Type Certificate" (STC). STC's are not published in data sheet format. However, they are listed in the "Summary of Supplemental Type Certificates" when the holder indicates that parts (kits), data, and design rights are available to the public (see the latest revision of Advisory Circular 21-5 for ordering instructions).

Coded Entries

Many aircraft and engine specifications and some type certificate data sheets carry coded information to describe the general characteristics of the product. These may be found in the model caption line or a separate line entry titled "Type" or "Designation."

Aircraft codes (Designations) are as follows:

Example: 2 PO-CLM



Engine Codes (Type) are as follows:

Example: 4LIA (sometimes 4IAI)