



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

DRAFT Advisory Circular

Rev 2b

DO NOT USE—FOR REVIEW ONLY.

Subject: U.S. AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES
AND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OPERATION
OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AIRCRAFT

Date: XX/XX/04

AC No.: 20-65A

Initiated by: AIR-200

Change:

1. PURPOSE OF THIS ADVISORY CIRCULAR (AC). This advisory circular (AC) offers general information and guidance on the issuance of airworthiness certificates for U.S.-registered aircraft, and the issuance of special flight authorizations (SFA) for operation in the United States of foreign aircraft not having standard airworthiness certificates issued by the country of registry. This AC describes an acceptable means, but not the sole means, for compliance with Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR). However, if you use the means described in the AC, you must follow it in all important aspects.

2. WHO THIS AC AFFECTS. This AC is directed to Production Approval Holders (PAHs) or individual owners of civil aircraft who would need to obtain an airworthiness certificate or a special flight authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Normally, you should review FAA Order 8130.2, Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft and Related Products, prior to requesting an airworthiness certificate or special flight authorization for familiarization and further understanding of the process.

3. DOCUMENT THIS AC CANCELS. This AC cancels AC 20-65, U.S. Airworthiness Certificates and Authorizations for Operation of Domestic and Foreign Aircraft, dated August 11, 1969.

4. PRINCIPAL CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THIS AC. This AC has been rewritten in plain language and the requirements and references to current regulations, orders, ACs, and FAA offices has been updated.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES AND SPECIAL FLIGHT AUTHORIZATION.

a. Standard airworthiness certificate. Under the provisions of § 21.175(a), an FAA Form 8100-2, Standard Airworthiness Certificate, are issued for an aircraft that fully complies with all of the requirements applicable to normal, utility, acrobatic, commuter, or transport category, manned free balloons, or any other special classes of aircraft designated by the Administrator. If you are a PAH or an individual owner of civil aircraft you must request a standard airworthiness certificate under the provisions of:

(1) Section 21.183(a) or (b) for aircraft manufactured under production or type certificate only.

(2) Section 21.183(c) for “Import aircraft.” AC 21-23, Airworthiness Certification of Civil Aircraft, Engines, Propellers, and Related Products Imported to the United States, provides further guidance for airworthiness certification of imported aircraft.

(3) Section 21.183(d) for “Other aircraft,” is generally applicable to used aircraft. Its provision also applied to airworthiness certification of aircraft built from spare and surplus parts and U.S.-manufactured civil aircraft that were exported and later returned to the United States for FAA certification.

b. Special airworthiness certificate. An FAA Form 8130-7, Special Airworthiness Certificate, may be issued, for all non-standard aircraft, as classified under § 21.175(b). Applicants may request a special airworthiness certificate under the provisions of:

- (1) Section 21.184 for primary aircraft.
- (2) Section 21.185 for restricted aircraft.
- (3) Section 21.189 for limited aircraft.
- (4) Part 21, subpart C for aircraft in the category of provisional type certificates and part 21, subpart I for aircraft that falls in the provisional airworthiness certificate requirements.
- (5) Sections 21.191, 21.193, and 21.195 for any experimental aircraft to include amateur-built.
- (6) Sections 21.197 and 21.199 for an aircraft that does not currently meet the applicable airworthiness requirements, but are capable of safe flight, may receive a “special flight permit.”

c. Special flight authorization. An applicant may request a special flight authorization under the provisions of:

(1) Section 91.715 is applicable to a non-U.S. civil aircraft that does not have a current airworthiness certificate, or an equivalent to a U.S. standard airworthiness certificate, that indicates that the aircraft complies with a detailed and comprehensive airworthiness code as provided by Annex 8 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. An SFA is required for an aircraft carrying an airworthiness certificate, flight permit, or similar document issued by the country of registry that is equivalent to a U.S. special airworthiness certificate.

(2) Part 375, Navigation of Foreign Civil Aircraft within the United States, to allow for a non-U.S.-registered civil aircraft to navigate/operate within U.S. airspace. Additional authorization is required from the Department of Transportation, Office of Foreign International Aviation, under § 375.10 requirements for certain foreign civil aircraft not registered with the International Civil Aviation Organization Member State, in order to operate a non-U.S. registered aircraft in the United States, or

(3) A “blanket” special flight authorization may be issued when an aircraft manufacturer’s operation will be conducted many times during a given period or for a number of aircraft engaged in the same operation. Refer to Order 8130.2 for further information.

NOTE: If the aircraft is of foreign military registry (non-civil), the request to bring the aircraft into the United States must be referred to the United States Department of State. Such aircraft may enter the United States only with a diplomatic clearance that would be issued solely on a government-to-government, non-commercial basis. Refer to Order 8130.2, Chapter 2 requirements.

6. DISCUSSION. As a production approval holder/individual owner what steps should I take to obtain a—

a. Standard airworthiness certificate?

(1) **Step 1.** You must first register, identify, and mark your aircraft under part 47, Aircraft Registration, and part 45, Identification and Registration Marking. To help aid you in the aircraft identification and markings you may go to AC 45-2, Identification and Registration Marking.

(2) **Step 2.** Submit a Form 8130-6, Application for Airworthiness Certificate, to your local FAA manufacturing inspection district office (MIDO), certificate management office (CMO), or FAA flight standards district (FSDO). You can obtain this form from any of these offices. In general, the items on the form are self-explanatory; however, if you need help refer to AC 21-12, Application for U.S. Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8130-6, for additional guidance, or get assistance from the FAA office you will be working with.

(3) **Step 3.** Your local FAA office or their authorized designee will conduct a review of all the required documents (see Order 8130.2) and perform the necessary inspections to determine if your aircraft is eligible for a standard airworthiness certificate.

(4) **Step 4.** If the FAA or the designee determines your aircraft meets all the appropriate requirements under § 21.183, a standard airworthiness certificate will be issued.

b. Special airworthiness certificate?

(1) **Step 1.** You may apply for a special airworthiness certificate in the same manner as described in paragraph 6a steps 1 through 3 above.

(2) **Step 2.** Once the FAA has determined your aircraft has met all the required regulations, applicable to the certificate requested, the FAA or the designee will issue you a special airworthiness certificate. Title 14 CFR, part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, prescribes operating limitations with the special airworthiness certificates; however, the FAA or designee issuing the special airworthiness certificate may prescribe additional limitations if considered necessary for safety.

NOTE: The operating limitations become part of the airworthiness certificate.

c. Special flight authorization?

(1) **Step 1.** Depending on the type of special flight authorization, whether individual or blanket SFA, you may submit your application by letter, telegram, or fax to your FAA Flight Standards Division (AFS) Manager or AIR Directorate Manager of the FAA region in which you are located or to the region within the United States point of entry is located. The following table (Table 1) shows what information is required in your application for either an individual or blanket SFA. The FAA office issuing the authorization may request additional information if necessary. You may go to the FAA website to contact your nearest AFS, international FAA office, or the supporting manufacturing inspection district office (for original certification). You may find all of the FAA offices in the FAA website: [\[Need the website-currently being worked\]](#)

Table 1. Application Information Needed for a Special Flight Authorization

“INDIVIDUAL” SPECIAL FLIGHT AUTHORIZATION	“BLANKET” SPECIAL FLIGHT AUTHORIZATION
1. Name and address of applicant, if different from registered owner. If the applicant is not the registered owner, a letter from the owner appointing the applicant as an agent.	1. Name and address of the promotion sponsor or the name and address of the manufacture, when the purpose is for export.
2. Name and address of registered owner of the aircraft.	2. The purpose(s) for which the blanket SFA is requested and the number of signed copies required to meet operating needs.
3. Operating purpose for which the SFA is requested.	3. Enough information to establish that the flights will not affect safety.
4. Type of airworthiness document, if any, issued for the aircraft by the country of registry.	4. For air shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of the registered owner/operator or pilot if not the owner; • Make, model, serial number, registration number; • Type of airworthiness certificate carried; • Reason why the aircraft does not comply with standard airworthiness requirements; and • Aircraft maintenance provisions.
5. Information of total aircraft time, maintenance status, date of last inspection, type of inspection, and inspector’s name and title.	5. Any other information deemed appropriate by the FAA.
6. Make, model, and serial number of aircraft.	
7. Assigned non-U.S. nationality and registration marks, a valid copy of registration document issued by the country of registry—translated in English.	
8. Base of operations for the proposed flight and the areas where the flight will be conducted.	
9. The proposed U.S. port of entry and itinerary while operating in the United States.	
10. The route to the U.S. border and to the ultimate destination.	
11. Whether the aircraft is to be modified by an FAA-approved Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) data, and will it require maintenance flight-testing in the United States. NOTE: Concurrence of the civil aviation authority of the country of registry must be required for the incorporation of modifications/alterations made using FAA-approved type design data.	
12. Whether the aircraft will be used as a test aircraft under a U.S. STC and will require flight-testing for the purpose of “showing compliance” with the regulations.	
13. If a damage aircraft is involved, the operating limitations (if any) assigned by the country of registry after its inspection.	
14. The duration for which the SFA is requested.	

NOTE: A civil aircraft registered in a country that is a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization only needs a special flight authorization issued by the FAA. A civil aircraft registered in a country that is not a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization must have both an authorization from the United States Department of Transportation and a special flight authorization issued by the FAA.

(2) **Step 2.** Your FAA office will issue your special flight authorization for foreign civil aircraft once they have received all documents and have determined you meet all requirements under § 91.715 and part 375.

7. FAA Publications.

a. Are there any related documents I should look at?

- Title 14 CFR, parts 21, 45, 47, 91, and 375 sets forth the requirements certification of products and parts; identification and marking of aircraft; aircraft registration; general flight and operating rules; and the navigation requirements of non-U.S. aircraft within the United States.
- Order 8130.2, Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft and Related Products establishes procedures for accomplishing airworthiness certification of aircraft and related products. This order applies to FAA manufacturing s (ASIs), flight standards ASIs, designees, or organizations delegations authorized to issue airworthiness certificates and special flight authorizations.
- Advisory Circular 20-27, Certification and Operation of Amateur-Built Aircraft, offers guidance on the fabrication and assembly, airworthiness certification, and operation of amateur-built aircraft of all types.
- Advisory Circular 20-62, Eligibility, Quality, and Identification of Aeronautical Replacement Parts, provides guidance in determining the quality, eligibility, and traceability of parts and material that will be installed in U.S. type certificated aircraft.
- Advisory Circular, 21-4, Special Flight Permits for Operation of Overweight Aircraft, provides additional information and guidance with respect to special flight permits in order to operate an aircraft in excess of maximum take-off weight, etc.
- Advisory Circular 21-12, Application for U.S. Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8130-6, explains how to prepare and submit the form to the FAA.
- Advisory Circular 21-23, Airworthiness Certification of Civil Aircraft, Engines, Propellers, and Related Products Imported to the United States, provides additional guidance of U.S. airworthiness certification or acceptance of civil aeronautical products imported into the United States.
- Advisory Circular 45-2, Identification and Registration Marking, further explains how to identify and mark your aircraft.

b. How can I get this and other FAA publications? You can get the publications for which there is a fee from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. You can view a list of all ACs at <http://www.faa.gov/regulations/index.cfm>. You can view the Federal Aviation Regulation at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfrhtml_00/Title_14/14tab_00.html.

To request free advisory circulars, contact:

**U.S. Department of Transportation
Utilization and Storage Section, M-443.2
Washington, D.C. 20590**

To be placed on FAA's mailing list for free ACs contact:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Distribution Requirements
Section, M-494.1
Washington, D.C. 20590

We encourage you to use the FAA website at <http://www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft/> for additional information and guidance.

Frank P. Paskiewicz
Manager, Production and Airworthiness
Division, AIR-200



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**Federal Aviation
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Directive Feedback Information

Please submit any written comments or recommendations for improving this directive, or suggest new items or subjects to be added to it. Also, if you find an error, please tell us about it.

Subject: AC 20-65A, U.S. Airworthiness Certificates and Authorizations for Operation of Domestic and Foreign Aircraft

To: Directive Management Officer, AIR-520
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20591
Fax Number: 202-385-4559

(Please check all appropriate line items)

- An error (procedural or typographical) has been noted in paragraph _____ on page _____.
- Recommend paragraph _____ on page _____ be changed as follows:
(attach separate sheet if necessary)
- In a future change to this directive, please include coverage on the following subject
(briefly describe what you want added):
- Other comments:
- I would like to discuss the above. Please contact me.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

FTS Telephone Number: _____ Routing Symbol: _____

FAA Form 1320-19 (8-89)