

# ORDER

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration

8120.15

4/27/2004

SUBJ: PERFORMING WORK ON NEW PRODUCTS OR PARTS THAT  
HAVE LEFT A U.S. PAH/SUPPLIER'S QUALITY SYSTEM

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**1. PURPOSE.** This order provides information and guidance to Aviation Safety Inspectors and Representatives of the Administrator regarding who is authorized to perform work on new products or parts that have left a U.S. Production Approval Holder (PAH) or their supplier's quality system. This order may be used by PAHs to assist them in determining when they are authorized to work on their products or parts.

**2. DISTRIBUTION.** This order is distributed to the Washington headquarters branch levels of the Aircraft Certification Service, Flight Standards Service, and the Regulatory Support Division; to the Aviation System Standards Office; to the branch level in the Aircraft Certification Directorates and regional Flight Standards Divisions; to all Aircraft Certification Offices; to all Manufacturing Inspection District and Satellite Offices; to all Flight Standards District Offices; to the Aircraft Certification Branch and Flight Standards Branch at the FAA Academy; to the Brussels Aircraft Certification Staff and Flight Standards Staff; to applicable Representatives of the Administrator; and to all International Field Offices.

### 3. RELATED PUBLICATIONS.

**a.** Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 21, Certification Procedures for Products and Parts (part 21).

**b.** 14 CFR part 43, Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance, Rebuilding, and Alteration (part 43).

**c.** 14 CFR part 145, Repair Stations (part 145).

**d.** FAA Order 8120.2, Production Approval and Certificate Management Procedures.

**e.** FAA Order 8130.2, Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft and Related Products.

**f.** FAA Order 8130.21, Procedures for Completion and Use of the Authorized Release Certificate, FAA Form 8130-3, Airworthiness Approval Tag.

**4. BACKGROUND.** On March 11, 2003, the Production and Airworthiness Division (AIR-200) published a Notice of Policy Statement in the Federal Register. The policy statement was titled "Performing Work on Products and/or Parts That Have Left a Production Approval

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Distribution: A-W (IR/FS/VN) -3; A-X (CD/FS) -3; A-FFS-0 (LTD);  
A-FAC-0 (ALL); AMA-220 (10 copies); AMA-250 (10 copies);  
AFS-600 (10 copies); AVR-20 (ALL); AEU-100

Initiated By: AIR-200

Holder's Quality System." The purpose of the policy statement was to propose policy that would clarify

who is authorized to perform work on products and/or parts that have left a U.S. PAH or their approved supplier's quality system, and to solicit comments. AIR-200 accepted comments generated from the policy statement until May 12, 2003. The comments were dispositioned, and modifications to the policy statement are contained in this order. The policy statement can be viewed on the Federal Register at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. The volume number is Vol. 68, No. 47, page 11475.

**5. DEVIATIONS.** Adherence to the procedures in this order is necessary for uniform administration of this directive material. Any deviations from this guidance material must be coordinated and approved by AIR-200. If a deviation becomes necessary, the FAA employee involved should be guided by sound judgment, ascertaining that all deviations are substantiated, documented, and concurred with by the appropriate supervisor and AIR-200. FAA employees are NOT federally protected for the work they perform if that work is done outside the scope of national policy.

## **6. DISCUSSION.**

### **a. NEW PRODUCTS OR PARTS THAT REMAIN WITHIN THE PART 21**

**QUALITY SYSTEM.** New products or parts (including foreign supplied products or parts) that leave the control of a U.S. PAH or their approved supplier's quality system and are accepted into another PAH's quality system must have work performed in accordance with the incorporating PAH's quality system. Conditions for accomplishing work under 14 CFR, part 21 are as follows:

(1) The PAH/supplier or incorporating PAH working on the product or part must have the appropriate design data, approved procedures, and processes to determine conformity of the product or part.

(2) The PAH/supplier or incorporating PAH working on the product or part must have qualified and authorized personnel who are familiar with the product's or part's complexities.

(3) The PAH incorporating the product or part must have a defined process for accomplishing & documenting any work performed in order to ensure that the product or part continues to conform to the design data.

(4) If a product or part has moved through several PAHs/suppliers, the incorporating PAH must determine which organization is the appropriate one to work on the product or part based on the above conditions.

**b. PRODUCTS OR PARTS THAT ARE ACCEPTED BY AN AIRLINE, REPAIR STATION, DISTRIBUTOR, ETC.** New products or parts that have left the U.S. PAH or their approved supplier's quality system and are accepted by an airline, repair station, distributor, etc., are 1) completed aircraft with an airworthiness certificate or 2) spare, replacement, or modification parts or products intended for installation on a higher level product or part that has already met the applicability requirements of part 43. Therefore, any maintenance, preventive

maintenance, rebuilding, altering, etc. on such products or parts will be performed by persons authorized under part 43.

**7. INFORMATION CURRENCY.** Any deficiencies found, clarifications needed, or improvements regarding the content of this order should be forwarded to the Planning and Financial Resources Management Branch, AIR-530, Attention: Directives Management Officer, for consideration. FAA Form 1320-19, Directive Feedback Information, is located on the last page of this order for your convenience or you may obtain it electronically from the FAA web site. A copy may be forwarded to AIR-200, Attention: Comments to Order 8120.15. If an interpretation is urgently needed, you may contact AIR-200 for guidance, but you should also use Form 1320-19 as a follow-up to each verbal conversation.

**8. RECORDS MANAGEMENT.** Refer to Orders 0000.1, FAA Standard Subject Classification System, 1350.14, Records Management, and 1350.15, Records Organization, Transfer, and Distribution Standards, or your office Records Management Officer (RMO)/ Directives Management Officer (DMO) for guidance regarding retention or disposition of records.

/S/

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



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

### 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: FAA Order 8120.15

To: Directive Management Officer, AIR-530

*(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)**