

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

8050.5

12/17/84

SUBJ: REPAINTING AIRCRAFT NATIONALITY AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS (N-NUMBERS)

1. PURPOSE. This order provides guidance concerning measures to be taken when aircraft owners/operators are found to be retaining small N-numbers on aircraft in place of displaying the 12-inch-high N-numbers that are required in accordance with the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) on a new or repainted aircraft or when the N-numbers are repainted, restored, or changed.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the branch level in the Office of Airworthiness and in the Aviation Standards National Field Office; to the Airworthiness section at the FAA Academy; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards Divisions; to the section level in the regional Aircraft Certification Divisions; to all Aircraft Certification Offices, Aircraft Certification Field Offices, Manufacturing Inspection District/Satellite Offices; to all General Aviation, Air Carrier, and Flight Standards District Offices; to all International, Aeronautical Quality Assurance, and International Aviation Field Offices; and to all Aircraft Evaluation Groups.
3. BACKGROUND. Part 45, Subpart C of the FAR, in pertinent part, was amended to require the display of 12-inch-high N-numbers on aircraft in place of the smaller 3-inch numbers previously allowed. This was based on a determination that the 3-inch numbers were too difficult to see. However, to preclude an undue burden on the aircraft owners/operators, they were permitted to continue to display the 3-inch marks on their aircraft until such time as their aircraft were repainted or the N-numbers were repainted, restored, or changed. However, based on the increasing number of reports received, it is apparent that certain owners/operators who are repainting their aircraft are not affixing the required 12-inch-high N-numbers on affected aircraft. Additionally in some instances, it has also been alleged that aircraft have been repainted except for the area covered by the existing small marks. These practices are unacceptable since they are in violation of FAR 45.29(b)(1)(i), or 45.29(b)(3).
4. CORRECTIVE MEASURES. The following corrective measures should be taken by Federal Aviation Administration field offices.

(a) During the course of any routine visits or surveillance, be on the alert for any newly repainted aircraft or repainted numbers to ensure that the marking is consistent with the pertinent FAR.

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(b) Whenever a finding is made that an aircraft has not been marked with the required 12-inch marks, in accordance with the FAR, enforcement action should be initiated against the owner/operator, citing FAR 45.29(b)(1)(i), or 45.29 (b)(3), as applicable.



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