



Technical Standard Order

**Subject: TSO-C144, AIRBORNE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
ANTENNA**

1. PURPOSE. This Technical Standard Order (TSO) prescribes the minimum performance standard that airborne Global Position System (GPS) antenna must meet to be identified with the applicable TSO marking.

2. APPLICABILITY. The standards of this TSO apply to antennas that will be used to receive and provide signals to a GPS (or Wide Area Augmentation System) sensor or system which will provide flight path deviation commands to the pilot or autopilot. These standards do not address the use of the signals received through this antenna for other applications.

3. REQUIREMENTS. An airborne GPS antenna that is to be so identified and that is manufactured on or after the date of this TSO must meet the standards set forth in Section 2 of RTCA/DO-228, "Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Global Navigation Satellite System Antenna".

a. Failure Condition Classification. Failure of the function defined in paragraph 2 of this TSO has been determined to be a major failure condition, and the applicant must develop the system to at least the design assurance level commensurate with this hazard classification.

b. Functional Qualifications. The required performance shall be demonstrated under the test conditions specified in RTCA/DO-228, Section 2.4. The use of test procedures other than specified in Sections 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 of RTCA/DO-228 constitutes a deviation to this TSO.

c. Environmental Qualifications. The equipment shall be subject to the test conditions as specified in RTCA/DO-160D, "Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment", Change 3, dated July 29, 1997.

d. Software Qualifications. If the article includes software, the software must be developed in accordance with Sections 3-11, Annex A, and Annex B of RTCA/DO-178B, "Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification", dated December 1, 1992. If the software is qualified using criteria contained in Section 2 or Section 12 of DO-178B, TSO applicants must apply for deviations.

4. MARKING. In addition to with the markings specified in 14 CFR § 21.607(d), the following requirements apply to all separate components of equipment that are manufactured under this TSO:

a. At least one major component must be permanently and legibly marked with all of the information listed in 14 CFR § 21.607(d).

b. Each separate component of equipment must be permanently and legibly marked with at least the name of the manufacturer, manufacturer's part number, and the TSO number.

c. If the component includes software, the part number must include hardware and software identification, or separate part numbers may be utilized for hardware and software. The part number must uniquely identify the hardware and software design, including modification status.

d. When applicable, identification that the article is an incomplete system or that the article accomplishes additional functions beyond that described in paragraph 2 of this TSO.

5. DATA REQUIREMENTS.

a. Data to be provided with the application. In addition to documents specified in 14 CFR §§ 21.605(a)(1) and (3) and in accordance with § 21.605(a)(2), the manufacturer must furnish the Manager, Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), having purview of the manufacturer's facilities, one copy each of the following technical data to support the FAA design and production approval:

(1) Operating instructions and equipment limitations. The limitations shall be sufficient to describe the operational capability of the equipment.

(2) Installation procedures and limitations. The limitations shall be sufficient to ensure that the article, when installed in accordance with the installation procedures, continues to meet the requirements of this TSO. The limitations shall also be sufficient to identify any unique aspects of the installation. The limitations shall include at least the following:

(a) A note with the following statement:

“The conditions and tests required for TSO approval of this article are minimum performance standards. It is the responsibility of those desiring to install this article either on or within a specific type or class of aircraft to determine that the article, when installed, performs in accordance with the design specifications that meet this TSO. The article may be installed only if further evaluation by the applicant documents an acceptable installation and is approved by the Administrator.”

(b) Specification of whether the antenna incorporates a preamplifier.

(c) The currents and voltages induced by high current tests of paragraph 23.6.3 of RTCA/DO-160D must be specified so that compatibility with a receiver can be verified at installation.

(d) When applicable, identification that the article is an incomplete system or a multi-use system. This must describe the functions that are provided by the article.

(3) Schematic drawings as applicable to the installation procedures.

(4) Wiring drawings as applicable to the installation procedures.

(5) Specifications.

(6) List of the components (by part number) that make up the equipment system complying with the standards prescribed in this TSO.

(7) Instructions for periodic maintenance and calibration that are necessary for continued airworthiness.

(8) An environmental qualifications form as described in RTCA/DO-160D for each component of the system.

(9) Manufacturer's TSO qualification test report.

(10) Nameplate drawing.

(11) A drawing list, enumerating all of the drawings and processes that are necessary to define the article's design.

(12) If the article includes software: Plan for Software Aspects of Certification (PSAC), Software Configuration Index, and Software Accomplishment Summary.

NOTE: The FAA recommends that the PSAC be submitted early in the software development process. Early submittal will allow timely resolution of issues such as partitioning and determination of software levels.

b. Data that must be available upon request. In addition to those data requirements that are to be furnished directly to the FAA, each manufacturer must have available for review by the manager of the ACO having purview of the manufacturer's facilities, the following technical data:

(1) The functional qualification specifications to be used to qualify each production article to ensure compliance with this TSO.

(2) Qualification test procedures used to determine compliance with this TSO.

- (3) Equipment calibration procedures.
- (4) Corrective maintenance procedures (within 12 months after TSO authorization).
- (5) Schematic drawings.
- (6) Wiring diagrams.
- (7) The results of the environmental qualification tests conducted in accordance with RTCA/DO-160D.
- (8) If the article includes software, the appropriate documentation as defined in RTCA/DO-178B, including all data supporting the applicable objectives found in Annex A of RTCA/DO-178B, Process Objectives and Outputs by Software Level.

c. Data to be Furnished with Manufactured Units.

- (1) One copy of the data and information specified in paragraphs 5a.(1) through (8) of this TSO must be provided to each purchaser one or more articles manufactured under this TSO.
- (2) If the article accomplishes any additional functions beyond that described in paragraph 2 of this TSO, then a copy of the data and information specified in paragraphs 5(a)(9) through (12) must also be provided to each purchaser of one or more articles manufactured under this TSO.

6. AVAILABILITY OF REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

a. Copies of RTCA/DO-160D, DO-178B, and DO-228 may be purchased from RTCA Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W, Suite 1020, Washington, D.C. 20036.

b. 14 CFR § 21, Subpart O, may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. AC 20-110 (current revision), "Index of Aviation Technical Standard Orders," and AC 20-115 (current revision), "Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, Inc., Document RTCA/DO-178B," may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Subsequent Distribution Office, Ardmore East Business Center, 3341 Q 75th Ave, Landover, MD 20785.

/S/ Abbas A. Rizvi
Acting Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division
Aircraft Certification Service