

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SECTION 1. GENERAL

1. PURPOSE. This handbook provides guidance for general aviation operations inspectors responsible for certification, technical administration, and surveillance in accordance with the provisions of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 61, 91, 103, 125, 133, 137, 141, 142, and 143. The handbook also provides direction for tasks related to aircraft accidents and incidents, investigations and compliance, the aviation safety program, administrative areas, and miscellaneous tasks not related to a specific regulation.

3. DISTRIBUTION. This FAA Order is distributed to all addresses on special distribution list ZFS-870.

5. CANCELLATION.

A. Implementation. With the publication of Change 7, this FAA Order was fully implemented. Cancellations due to the implementation of this Order are listed under paragraph B.

B. Canceled FAA Orders. The following FAA Orders have been canceled:

(1) FAA Order 8060.4, Use of Social Security Numbers on Temporary Airman Certificates, dated May 15, 1973. (Canceled by CHANGE 7.)

(2) FAA Order 8420.7, Pilot Flight Testing, dated June 26, 1972. (Canceled by CHANGE 7.)

(3) FAA Order 8440.3, Agricultural Aircraft Operations Handbook, dated November 4, 1965. (Canceled by CHANGE 1.)

(4) FAA Order 8440.5A, General Aviation Operations Inspector's Handbook, dated March 19, 1975. (Remaining unsuperseded portions canceled by CHANGE 7.)

(5) FAA Order 8710.5, Certification: Pilot Schools, dated June 20, 1979. (Canceled by CHANGE 1.)

(6) FAA Order 8710.4, Certification: Pilots and Flight Instructors, dated June 16, 1978. (Canceled by CHANGE 3.)

(7) FAA Order 8720.2, Inspection and Surveillance Procedures--Operators of Large Airplanes Operated in Accordance with FAR Part 125, dated December 20, 1980. (Canceled by the original issuance of this handbook.)

7. PREVIOUS FAA ORDER 8440.5A CHAPTER REPLACEMENTS.

A. Superseded Chapters. Chapters of FAA Order 8440.5A, replaced by previous changes to FAA Order 8700.1, are listed under paragraph B.

B. Format. The chapters in FAA Order 8440.5A are listed first with the chapter numbers and change numbers in 8700.1 that supersede them following in parenthesis.

(1) Chapter 5, Waivers - Airshow/Aerobatic Contests/Air Races (Superseded by chapters 25 and 31 in CHANGE 2 and 49 and 50 in CHANGE 4)

(2) Chapter 7, Rotorcraft External-Load Operations (Superseded by chapters 96 - 104, CHANGE 4)

(3) Chapter 9, Moored Balloons, Kites, Unmanned Rockets, and Unmanned Balloons (Superseded by chapter 44, CHANGE 6)

(4) Chapter 10, Sport Parachuting (Superseded by chapters 25 and 31 in CHANGE 2 and 49 and 50 in CHANGE 4)

(5) Chapter 12, Hot Air Balloons (Superseded by chapters 25 and 31 in CHANGE 2 and 49 and 50 in CHANGE 4)

(6) Chapter 13, Surveillance, paragraphs 198 through 200 ONLY (Superseded by chapters 55 and 56, CHANGE 6)

(7) Chapter 14, Waivers (Superseded by chapters 45 - 47 and 50 - 53, CHANGE 6)

(8) Chapter 18, Category II Operations with Small Airplanes (Superseded by chapters 59 and 60, CHANGE 6)

9. BACKGROUND. Volume 1 contains general and background information. Volume 2 contains guidance

and procedures for each task. The handbook is organized by reference to the pertinent part of 14 CFR.

A. Directive Information. Directive information is imperative instruction. Directive information uses terms such as "shall" and "must" and means that the actions are MANDATORY. "Shall not" or "must not" means the action is PROHIBITED. The use of these terms allows no flexibility.

B. Guidance Information. Guidance information uses terms such as "should" or "may." These terms indicate actions that are desirable, permissible, and/or not mandatory. The use of these terms allows flexibility.

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SECTION 2. HANDBOOK BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. HANDBOOK FORMAT.

A. Chapters. Chapters in volume 2 represent separate tasks that are accomplished by operations inspectors. Tasks were initially identified from the 1985 Job Task Analysis and are revised as inspector responsibilities change. Except for introductory chapters, each chapter is divided into two sections, Background and Procedures.

(1) Section 1, Background, provides the objective of the task, general information, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy relating to the task.

(2) Section 2, Procedures, outlines procedures for performing the task. Required procedural steps and criteria for determining completion of the task are provided.

B. Paragraph Numbering. The paragraphs are numbered sequentially within each section, using odd numbers only.

C. Figure and Table References. Figures are numbered sequentially in each chapter and placed at the end of the procedures section. Tables are located within the text of the Background sections.

D. Sample Letters. Sample letters included in volume 2 figures are samples only. Letters composed

in the district office must adhere to style and format indicated in the FAA Correspondence Manual.

E. Appendices. There are four appendices to the handbook.

(1) Appendix 1 contains a complete index for the handbook.

(2) Appendix 2 outlines the procedures for recommending a change and/or correction to the information in the handbook. An Inspector Feedback Sheet is provided for this purpose.

(3) Appendix 3 contains a list of current General Aviation Handbook Bulletins.

(4) Appendix 4 contains a list of current Flight Standards Information Bulletins for General Aviation.

3. AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THIS DOCUMENT. The Flight Standards Service is responsible for all changes to this FAA Order and its appendices. Regional supplements to this Order are prohibited. Recommendations for changes or corrections should be submitted to the General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, in accordance with the procedures outlined in appendix 2.

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