NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.388

National Policy

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11/9/16

Cancellation Date:
11/9/17

SUBJ: OpSpec A051, Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) Operations

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance on new operations specifications (OpSpecs) for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) and principal operations inspectors (POI) assigned to operators desiring to conduct Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135. This notice establishes an OpSpec A051, Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) Operations template for operators desiring to conduct ANVG operations under part 135.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is FAA CHDOs and principal inspectors (PI) assigned to operators desiring to conduct ANVG operations under part 135. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) divisions and branches in the regions and in headquarters (HQ).

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at http://fsims.avs.faa.gov. Operators can find this notice on the FAA's website at http://fsims.faa.gov. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. As Night Vision Goggle (NVG) technology has evolved over the past several years, the potential to increase safety has become widely accepted. Helicopter operators are currently authorized Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) by the issuance of OpSpec A050, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) and OpSpec D093, Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Operations (HNVGO) Maintenance Program. While currently only utilized in helicopter operations, the potential to benefit the airplane community has been recognized by the FAA. The industry has requested the FAA establish an approval process for part 135 operators to conduct ANVG operations. The approval process requires the creation of two new OpSpecs: OpSpec A051 authorizes the certificate holder to conduct ANVG operations under part 135; and OpSpec D094, Airplane Night Vision Goggle Operations (ANVGO) Maintenance Program Under Part 135, authorizes the certificate holder's ANVG operations maintenance program. OpSpecs A051 and D094 must both be issued to authorize a certificate holder to conduct part 135 ANVG operations. These new OpSpecs, along with the associated

FAA Order 8900.1 guidance, provide a means and mechanism for the authorization, oversight, and surveillance of ANVG operations.

5. Guidance. The Air Transportation Division (AFS-200), in cooperation with the Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) and industry members of the Operations Specifications Working Group (OSWG), developed this notice. This notice contains the sample OpSpec A051 template in Appendix A, which applies to part 135.

6. Action. POIs should review the attached OpSpec and the new guidance for the issuance of OpSpec A051. POIs should provide this notice to the operators for whom they are responsible, alerting them to updated operating procedures. POIs are also reminded that anytime an ANVG operations authorization is issued, coordination with a principal maintenance inspector (PMI) and the principal avionics inspector (PAI) is required. Issuance of OpSpec D094 is also required to enable ANVG operations.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Part 135 Air Carrier Operations Branch (AFS-250) at 202-267-8166.



John Barbagallo
Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. Sample OpSpec A051, Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) Operations: 14 CFR Part 135

a. The certificate holder is authorized to conduct en route Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) operations in accordance with 14 CFR part 135 and the limitations and provisions of this operations specification. All ANVG operations must be conducted in accordance with any specific limitation(s) contained in respective AFM(s) and/or design approval(s) and specific ANVG operations procedures in the certificate holder's General Operations Manual (GOM). Additional authorizations over and above en route ANVG operations are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 – Additional Authorizations for ANVG Operations

Airplane Night Vision Goggle (ANVG) Operations	Airplane Single-Engine Land (ASEL)	Airplane Multiengine Land (AMEL)
Takeoff and Landing under NVG	◯ Authorized ◯ Not Authorized	◯ Authorized ◯ Not Authorized
Single-Pilot Operations	◯ Authorized ◯ Not Authorized	◯ Authorized ◯ Not Authorized

b. Limitations and Provisions.

(1) Pilot Qualifications and Approved ANVG Operations Training for Crewmembers.

(a) The certificate holder may not use any crewmember in ANVG operations unless that person has satisfactorily completed the appropriate training and checking required by the certificate holder's approved training program since the beginning of the 12th calendar-month before that flight. The grace provisions of part 135, § 135.301 apply to these required checks.

(b) The certificate holder may not use any person as a pilot of an airplane during ANVG operations unless that person meets the following Night Vision Goggle (NVG) recency-of-experience requirements in the category and class of airplane to be operated within the preceding 60 days of the flight, and, unless that person performs and records the following tasks as the sole manipulator of the controls during ANVG operations, except as provided in subparagraph b(1)(c):

(i) Three area departure and arrival tasks, which means departing the airport environment under NVG operations in visual meteorological conditions (VMC). Each departure includes a climbout and cruise, and each arrival includes a descent and approach to an airport;

(ii) Three ANVG operations, which include NVG transitions from aided to unaided and back to aided night flight; and

(iii) If authorized to conduct airplane takeoff and landing under NVG, three takeoffs, and three landings in an airplane to a full stop.

NOTE 1: ANVG flight operation means the portion of a flight that occurs during the time period from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise where the pilot maintains visual surface reference using NVGs in an airplane that is approved for such an operation.

NOTE 2: Recency of experience may be obtained on one or more flight(s) that include the tasks for ANVG recency of experience and must include sufficient recurrent events to ensure pilot proficiency in NVG operations in the airplane. Each certificate holder must specify tasks and techniques utilized to maintain pilot NVG proficiency suitable for their operating environment(s) and kinds of operations. Recency of experience may be maintained during revenue flights if the pilot(s) are already NVG current.

(c) A pilot who does not meet the recency-of-experience requirements in subparagraph b(1)(b) above may reestablish recency by one of the following:

(i) Successfully complete required recency-of-experience requirements in subparagraph b(1)(b) above while not carrying passengers and while under the supervision of a PIC who is current in the category and class and qualified in the make and model of airplane; or

(ii) Successfully complete an ANVG operations competency check from an authorized check pilot or a person approved by the FAA Administrator to conduct NVG competency checks.

(2) ANVG Operations Limitations.

(a) The certificate holder must ensure each crewmember performs a preflight inspection for serviceability and function of the NVG that the crewmember will utilize during that flight in accordance with the manufacturer’s procedures or operator’s manual.

(b) The certificate holder must ensure an individual qualified in accordance with the certificate holder’s procedures accomplishes a Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) preflight of that airplane prior to ANVG operations.

(c) The certificate holder is authorized to use NVGs only to aid night flight during VMC and must not use NVGs during instrument meteorological conditions (IMC). The certificate holder must comply with VFR weather minimums during ANVG-aided flight and must adhere to the weather minimums prescribed in these operations specifications and all applicable FAA regulations.

(d) The certificate holder is not authorized to deviate from any FAA regulation as a result of the use of ANVG.

(e) The certificate holder must develop processes, procedures, and recordkeeping to ensure that all training, checking, and recency requirements have been satisfied prior to crewmembers engaging in ANVG operations.

(f) The certificate holder may only use airplanes identified in operations specification D094 for ANVG operations. The NVIS, and all necessary equipment installed or modified as

part of the entire NVIS, must be maintained in accordance with the certificate holder's ANVG operations maintenance program authorized in operations specification D094.

(g) Prior to conducting ANVG operations, the certificate holder must ensure the required NVIS checks are conducted and accomplished in accordance with the documents identified in Table 2.

Table 2 – Required Checks Prior to Conducting ANVG Operations

Required Check	Document	Reference