NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.426

National Policy

Effective Date:
6/21/17

Cancellation Date:
6/21/18

SUBJ: Interim Policy on the Effects of the Future of Flight Standards (FFS) Initiative on Current Policy, Guidance, and Documents

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice supplements all policy, guidance, and documents impacted by the structural and organizational changes for the Future of Flight Standards (FFS) transformation where references to certain organizational entities are no longer valid. The Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) Publications link will provide status and information of organizational changes as the Flight Standards Service (AFS) implements and adjusts the structural changes.

2. Audience. The audience for this notice is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-wide.

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 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.

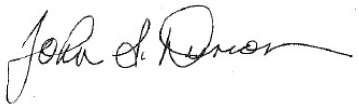
4. Background. FFS is a service-wide initiative to change the culture of AFS, which promotes critical thinking, interdependence, and consistency. One of the primary ways of accomplishing this change is through a realignment of AFS organizations to eliminate redundancies, promote greater efficiency and agility, and further support aviation safety. Organizational changes include the elimination of regional AFS offices and the creation of four functional organizations within AFS: Air Carrier, General Aviation, Standards, and Foundational Business. By reorganizing around four functional areas, this allows for a single point of accountability within each area, resulting in the removal of an additional level of coordination at the regional level and a more consistent and streamlined structure within AFS.

5. Discussion. There will be varying levels of impact throughout AFS as FFS is implemented, starting in July 2017. The following items provide guidance where references to the legacy AFS structure exist in documents to ensure a seamless transition to the FFS structure.

a. Existing FAA-Issued Items and Documents Remain Valid. All items previously issued by the FAA that are current and valid remain valid. No action is required. The process for new or revised requests remains unchanged (memo, letter, email, phone, etc.).

b. Legacy AFS Structure. Any policy, guidance, or document that contains a reference to a legacy AFS office that was eliminated as a result of the FFS will need to be cross-referenced to the FFS structure. Where these legacy AFS references exist, the user will need to access the FSIMS Publications link and select "Future of Flight Standards (FFS) Updates" found under the "Active Publications" list. This link provides a list that translates organizational codes from the legacy AFS structure to the FFS structure. This website should be referenced to determine the new office to contact. The website will be continuously updated to reflect the most current office codes, structure, and responsibilities to ensure effective communications continue.

6. Disposition. The information in this notice will be incorporated into policy, guidance, and documents that include references to the legacy AFS structure and organizations before this notice expires. Questions concerning the information in this notice can be directed to 9-AWA-AFS-FFS-Policy-Coordination@faa.gov. Users are directed to access the FSIMS Publications link before emailing with questions.



John S. Duncan
Director, Flight Standards Service