NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.493

National Policy

Effective Date:
12/7/18

Cancellation Date:
12/7/19

SUBJ: Operations Approval Portal System

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice contains guidance for aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who conduct operational approval of Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) authorizations. The Operations Approval Portal System (OAPS) has been developed to provide the industry and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors the ability to submit and approve an application for a specific NextGen authorization (operations specification (OpSpec)/management specification (MSpec)/Letter of Authorization (LOA)) electronically. Completion of the OAPS process is required prior to issuing any OpSpec listed in subparagraph 5c of this notice.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is FAA certificate-holding district offices (CHDO) (including Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) or certificate management offices (CMO)), principal operations inspectors (POI), and ASIs assigned to certificate holders who are authorized to conduct Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 91, 91 subpart K (part 91K), 121, 129, and/or 135 operations. The secondary audience includes all Flight Standards divisions, branches, and offices.

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. OAPS was developed to provide the aviation industry and FAA inspectors with the ability to submit and approve an application for a specific NextGen OpSpec/MSpec/LOA electronically. The FAA CMOs/CHDOs and operators have been tracking these applications by region on the Knowledge Services Network (KSN) site called the NextGen Tracker. RTCA, Inc. recommended the FAA identify and solve operational and certification issues that may impede adoption and acceleration of NextGen capabilities. In response, the FAA initiated a cross-agency Navigation Procedures Project (NAV Lean) to streamline policies and processes used to implement new technologies in the National Airspace System (NAS). The NextGen Tracker tool is being replaced with a better tool, OAPS. OAPS is the next generation of application automation used by the Flight Standards Service to collect data on operator activities, disseminate FAA policy to the operator and inspector communities, and generate and manage

authorizing documents on behalf of the operator. OAPS will allow CMOs/CHDOs, applicants, and the Office of Safety Standards direct entry and access to application status and information.

5. OAPS. This web application was developed to provide transparency between the FAA and industry, and to be intuitive to both the inspector as well as the industry member. This tool allows for the electronic submission of certain OpSpec applications (OpSpec/MSpec/LOA), verification that all operational requirements have been met, the uploading of documents and manuals, and the ability to track an application's progress. Using OAPS, principal inspectors (PI) will have the ability to review, comment, forward to another office, and approve or deny an application.

a. Additional Data Collected. OAPS will also collect data of navigational equipment and approved capabilities, installed on each aircraft by N-number.

b. OAPS Access. OAPS is accessed using the same credentials that are used for the Web-based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS) at http://oaps.faa.gov.

c. Available OpSpec Templates. Currently, the following 13 NextGen OpSpec application templates are available for use:

- A056, Data Link Communications.
- A153, ADS-B Out Operations Outside of U.S.-Designated Airspace.
- A354, In-Trail Procedures (ITP) Using ADS-B In.
- B035, Class I Navigation in the U.S. Class A Airspace Using Area or Long-Range Navigation Systems.
- B036, Oceanic and Remote Continental Navigation Using Multiple Long-Range Navigation Systems (M-LRNS).
- B054, Oceanic and Remote Airspace Navigation Using a Single Long-Range Navigation System.
- C048, Enhanced Flight Vision Systems.
- C052, Straight-In Non-Precision, APV, and Category I Precision Approach and Landing Minima – All Airports.
- C060, Category II and III Instrument Approach and Landing Operations.
- C063, Area Navigation (RNAV) and Required Navigation Performance (RNP) Terminal Operations.
- C073, Vertical Navigation (VNAV) Instrument Approach Procedures (IAP) Using Minimum Descent Altitude (MDA) as a Decision Altitude (DA)/Decision Height (DH).
- C300, 14 CFR Part 97 NDB, NDB/DME, VOR, and VOR/DME Instrument Approach Procedures Using Substitute Means of Navigation.
- C384, Required Navigation Performance Procedures (RNP) with Authorization Required (AR).

6. Action. PIs and ASIs responsible for issuing, or ASIs responsible for approving or concurring with, OpSpecs/MSpecs/LOAs will accomplish the following:

a. Training. Inspectors should begin by taking the online training available within the OAPS application under "Training."

b. Notification to Operators. ASIs, when trained, will provide verbal or written notice to their respective operators that OAPS is available for their use. Applications entered into the NextGen Tracker prior to notification of the operator of the availability of OAPS will be processed to completion on the NextGen Tracker. New applications after the notification of the operator of OAPS availability will be entered into OAPS for processing. The ASI will ensure that the application is entered via the correct tool.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 1, Section 1, subparagraph 3-4D; and Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 2 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the Technical Programs Branch at 202-267-8166.

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