NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.598

National Policy

Effective Date:
9/14/21

Cancellation Date:
9/14/22

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changes for the Future of Flight Standards (FFS) transformation where references to certain organizational entities are no longer valid. This notice reissues and expands on Notice N 8900.566, Interim Policy on the Effects of the Future of Flight Standards (FFS) Initiative on Current Policy, Guidance, and Documents, dated November 3, 2020.

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, the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at https://fsims.avs.faa.gov, and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at https://drs.faa.gov. Operators and the public can find this notice on the FAA's website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices, FSIMS at https://fsims.faa.gov, and the DRS.

4. Cancellation. This notice cancels Notice N 8900.566, Interim Policy on the Effects of the Future of Flight Standards (FFS) Initiative on Current Policy, Guidance, and Documents, dated November 3, 2020.

5. Background. FFS is a service-wide initiative to change the culture of the Flight Standards Service (FS), which promotes critical thinking, interdependence, and consistency. One of the primary ways of accomplishing this change is through a realignment of FS organizations to eliminate redundancies, promote greater efficiency and agility, and further support aviation safety. Organizational changes include the elimination of regional FS offices and the creation of four functional organizations within FS: Air Carrier Safety Assurance, General Aviation Safety Assurance, Safety 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 FS.

6. Discussion. There will be varying levels of impact throughout FS as the FFS initiative is implemented. The following items provide guidance where references to the legacy FS 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 FS Structure. Any policy, guidance, or document that contains a reference to a legacy term/acronym that was eliminated as a result of the FFS initiative will need to be cross-referenced to the FFS structure. Where these legacy FS references exist, the user will need to refer to FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 1, Section 1, General Order Information, Paragraph 1-6, Future of Flight Standards (FFS) Nomenclature. This reference provides a list that translates legacy terms/acronyms to the FFS structure.

7. Disposition. FS policy offices must ensure FFS terms/acronyms will be incorporated into policy, guidance, and documents that include references to the legacy FS structure and organizations. FS policy offices should complete this task in a timely manner in order to minimize discrepancies and confusion by those who rely on their guidance for accurate information. FS policy offices should consider their number of documents owned, ongoing workload, available personnel, and other variables that may affect timeliness. Questions concerning the information in this notice can be directed to 9-AWA-AFS-FFS-Policy-Coordination@faa.gov.



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