ORDER FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL REGION

CE 1100. 44
Chg. 1

11/15/01

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT EVALUATION GROUP

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes an Aircraft Evaluation Group (AEG) in accordance with the Delegations of Authority in Order 8000.51, dated February 1, 1982.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This directive is distributed to the Central Region Flight Standards Division Branch and field managers; all Aircraft Certification Divisions; all Central Region Flight Standards field offices; the Air Transportation Division (Washington) and all Aircraft Certification offices.

3. BACKGROUND.

a. In recognition of the need to obtain a greater level of certification effectiveness, national standardization, and accountability in the application of airworthiness standards for civil aeronautical products, the FAA established Aircraft Certification Directorates in November 1981, to perform national headquarters staff functions relative to the aircraft, aircraft engine, propeller type certification, production certification, and original airworthiness certification programs.

b. The Airplane Directorates perform technical policy management and airworthiness projects management for aircraft certification programs.

c. The AEG is responsible to the Flight Standards Division and has a responsibility and function to both the Small Airplane and Transport Airplane Certification Directorates for applicable technical services of the Flight Standards Division to Aircraft Certification Offices. The AEG is responsible for providing operational and maintenance consultation, coordination and assistance in certification programs, and for monitoring and developing guidance on continued airworthiness and operational considerations for the operating fleets.

d. The Director, Flight Standards Service, will provide guidance concerning national policy, procedures, practices, and standardization as it relates to aircraft programs within the AEG.

4. ORGANIZATION.

a. The AEG will report to the Manager, Central Region Flight Standards Division, ACE-200.

b. The AEG shall be composed of highly qualified technical personnel. A Manager and an appropriate number of Operations, Maintenance, and Avionics Inspectors will be selected. Additional Flight Standards and Aircraft Certification personnel, from both within or outside Central Region, will be identified as needed by the AEG Manager to serve AEG functions in their areas of specialty subject to coordination and approval of the appropriate Division Managers.

Distribution: A-X-(FS)-3; A-FFS-O(Standard) Certification Divisions (2 copies); AFS-200 (2 copies); all ACOs (2 copies)

c. The AEG Manager will be the regional point of contact on all matters relating to the AEG. He will be responsible for the planning, coordinating, and execution of the AEG programs.

5. SCOPE.

a. The AEG provides the necessary operations and maintenance input to the type certification process and, once the aircraft enters services becomes the coordination point for activities involving both Flight Standards and Aircraft Certification functions such as Airworthiness Directives, Master Minimum Equipment Lists, training requirements, etc.

b. Required meetings and activities will be scheduled by the AEG Manager as necessary or as directed by the Manager, Central Region Flight Standards Division.

c. The AEG will also provide applicable technical services for aircraft responsibilities delegated to the Central Region by other Aircraft Evaluation Groups.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Establish Flight Operations Evaluation Boards (FOEBs) for small and transport aircraft.

b. Develop, revise, and disseminate Master Minimum Equipment Lists (MMELs) for small and transport aircraft.

c. Conduct timely FOEB meetings to resolve MMEL safety related matters or to review and grant relief, when possible, of identified failure-prone systems, equipment, or instruments.

d. When applicable, establish a Maintenance Review Board (MRB) for all newly manufactured aircraft. The MRB establishes and disseminates the initial maintenance program standard for each applicable aircraft.

e. Monitor, make recommendations for revisions, and as necessary, follow up on adverse trends for aircraft Service Difficulty Reports (SDRs).

f. Participate in the development, review, and coordination of Airworthiness Directives (AD) rulemaking for small and transport aircraft.

g. Review and coordinate Airplane Flight Manuals (AFM) and Pilot Operating Handbook (POH) or changes to AFMs/POHs.

h. Participate in Type Certification Boards for assigned aircraft.

i. The AEG will establish Flight Standardization Boards (FSBs) for the development of training and flight checking standards for assigned aircraft.

j. Provide review, surveillance, and approval of existing, new or modified assigned airplane training programs.

k. Establish and maintain appropriate liaison with Washington, regions, and district offices in matters concerning operational evaluation of specific new or modified aircraft.

l. Provide consultation and assistance to FAA headquarters in the development of draft national policies or projects for rules, procedures, handbooks, Advisory Circulars, or other matters related to aircraft operations and maintenance under Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) 23, 25, 43, 61, 63, 65, 91, 97, 119, 121, 125, 129, and 135.

m. Provide applicable technical services for the associated Aircraft Certification Offices in areas of operational consultation, coordination, assistance in certification programs, and operational considerations for the operating fleets.

n. Provide technical consultation to FAA and industry for inquiries, questions, and applicability of MMELs.

o. Provide liaison for manufacturer or operator-sponsored aircraft operating problem meetings, and provide any necessary FAA follow-up actions as a result of such meetings.

p. When applicable, conduct a review to determine the criticality, urgency, and applicability of Operator Letters, Operations Bulletins, Service Bulletins, Service Letters, Airline Crew Training Bulletins, or other technical documents which are provided to the FAA.

Q. Serve as the Regional point of contact for all matters related to interpretation and implementation of Minimum Equipment Lists (MELs).

r. Maintain a current file of approved assigned aircraft MMELs for distribution as requested to field offices, Aircraft Evaluation Groups (AEGs), regional offices, Washington Headquarters, and industry.

s. When requested, provide assistance in the investigation of aircraft accidents or incidents, and in the analysis and development of corrective actions.

t. Review and make recommendations on Instructions for Continued Airworthiness (ICA) for the Aircraft Directorates, Aircraft Certification Offices (ACO), and Flight Standards Field Offices (FSDO). Review for Type Certifications (TC), Amended Type Certifications (ATC), Supplemental Type Certifications (STC) and Field Approvals when requested.

Marion B. Dittman
Manager, Central Region Flight Standards Division