

Operational Approval Overview

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Elements of Operational Approval

- Aircraft Airworthiness Approval

- Operations Program Approval:
 - Pilot Training Programs and Operational Practices and Procedures

- Continued Airworthiness Program Approval

- Participation in Monitoring Program, as required

Aircraft Airworthiness Approval

Approval granted for:

- Each individual aircraft group/type to be used by operator in RVSM operations
- Each individual airframe to be used by operator in RVSM operations

Basic References

- Paragraphs in following slides refer to FAA Interim Guidance (IG) 91-RVSM
- Primary source document for aircraft/operator approval .
- Note: JAA Temporary Guidance Leaflet 6 mirrors 91-RVSM

Application for Authority (Reference Paragraph 11d)

- Content of Operator RVSM Application for initial approval:
 - Applicable RVSM Airworthiness Documents (e.g., Service Bulletin, Supplemental Type Certificate)
 - Description of aircraft RVSM components and equipment
 - Operator training programs and operating practices and procedures
 - Operations manuals and checklists
 - Past performance operating history
 - Minimum Equipment List (MEL) GC 59
 - Maintenance program
 - Plans for participation in monitoring programs

Example Application

→ Published on website RVSM Documentation page

→ Under Documents Applicable to All RVSM Approvals

Training Programs/Operating Practices and Procedures

Reference Appendix 4 (Training, Practices, Procedures)

- Paragraph 2: Flight Planning
- Paragraph 3: Pre-flight procedures at aircraft
- Paragraph 4: Procedures prior to RVSM airspace entry
- Paragraph 5: In-flight procedures
 - Paragraph 5j: contingency procedures (e.g. malfunction of aircraft systems)
- Paragraph 6: Post-flight

Training Programs/Operating Practices and Procedures

Potential DRVSM operational policy/procedures to be added or updated in 91-RVSM and, where appropriate, in the AIM:

- Malfunction of aircraft systems enroute
- Phraseology
- Guidance on mountain wave and wake turbulence encounters
- Policy/procedures to transition non-RVSM aircraft to operate above FL 410
- Contingency procedures

Maintenance and Monitoring Programs

Maintenance program and monitoring requirements will be addressed in subsequent presentations

Part 121 and 135 Validation Flights

- Ref 91-RVSM paragraph 11f
- FAA may elect to observe a flight or flights
- Normally conducted in revenue service

Operational Approval Documents

- For part 121, 135 and 125 operators:
 - Operations Specification paragraph B046 (Operations in RVSM Airspace)
 - OpSpecs paragraph D092 (Maintenance Program Authorization for Airplanes Used in RVSM Operations)

- For part 91 and 125 operations under part 91:
 - Letter of Authorization issued in accordance with HBGA 99-22

Early Aircraft Approval

- Operators not planning RVSM operations outside the US, but wishing to gain aircraft airworthiness approval early should do so
- Part 121, 125, 135 aircraft can be listed in D092
- For all aircraft, in accordance with HBAT 99-11A, HBGA 99-17A, CHDO's will log aircraft airworthiness approval on FAA RVSM Approvals Database through FAA Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) or faxed info
- For part 91, when LOA for DRVSM operations issued, Approvals Database will be updated for Ops approval