

# FAA Airport Certification Program Overview

**Presented to:**

**By:** Warren Relaford, ACSI

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**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

*We are*  
**Airports**

# Overview

- **Background**
- **Airport Certification**
- **Standards**
- **FAA Inspections**
  - Inspection Process
  - Enforcement Actions



# Background

We are  
**Airports** 



# Key Historical Dates - 1

**1972 – Congress authorized FAA to certificate airports that received both scheduled and unscheduled air carrier service.**



**1973 – Airports first became certificated.**  
Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139

# Key Historical Dates - 2

- **January 1, 1988 (Amended):**  
14 CFR part 139 revised - *Certification and Operations: Land Airports Serving Certain Air Carriers*
- **October 9, 1996:**  
FAA Reauthorization Act of 1996 – Broadened FAA authority
- **February 10, 2004 and January 16, 2013:**  
14 CFR part 139 revised again - *Certification of Airports*



# ICAO References & Similarities

- **Doc 9734 – Safety Oversight Manual**
  - Directs/guides member states to establish State Safety Oversight Program
    - *“function performed by a state to ensure that individual and organizations performing an aviation activity comply with safety-related national laws”*
    - *“a lack of appropriate safety oversight in one member state therefore threatens the health of international civil aircraft operations”*
  - One way the U.S. performs safety oversight is via Part 139 Certification program
- **Doc 9774, Chap 3&4**
  - Aerodrome certification process
- **Doc 9981 – Aerodromes (chap 2, Certification of Aerodromes)**



# Airport Certificates

## Currently:

Airports served by scheduled air carrier aircraft with more than *9 passenger seats* and unscheduled air carriers with at least 31 passenger seats are required to have an **Airport Operating Certificate**

- **Applies to 570 civil airports**
- **Does not apply to cargo aircraft**



# Air Carrier Categories

## Two categories of Air Carriers

- **Large Air Carriers** – 31 or more passenger seats
- **Small Air Carriers** – 10 to 30 passenger seats
  - Number of passenger seats is based on aircraft design
  - Determined by aircraft type certificate data sheet.



# Four Classes of Airports

Class	Description
I	Scheduled large air carrier that can also serve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unscheduled large air carrier and/or</li><li>• Scheduled small air carrier</li></ul>
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scheduled small air carrier</li><li>• Unscheduled large air carrier</li></ul>
III	Scheduled small air carrier only
IV	Unscheduled large air carrier <i>only</i>

**There is no class for unscheduled small air carrier**



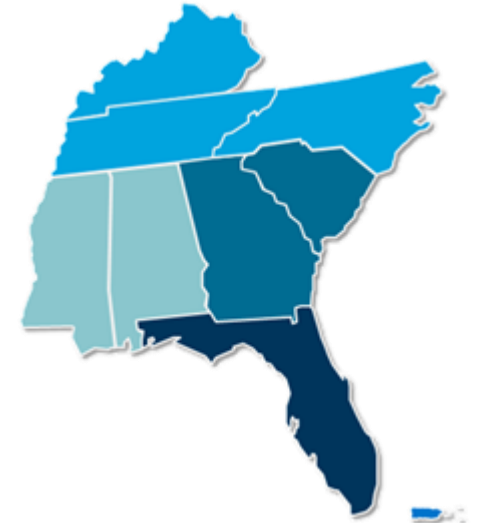
# Airport Certification

We are  
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# Certificated Airports, Southern Region

- **Areas of responsibility:** North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
- **96 Certificated Airports:**
  - Class I: 79
  - Class II: 1
  - Class III: 0
  - Class IV: 15



# Need for Airport Certification Manual

- **Part 139**
  - Is general in nature
  - Applies to all sizes of airports with differing organizational structures
- **Airports must develop an Airport Certification Manual (ACM) addressing required contents ( IAW AC 150-5510-22)**
- **The ACM**
  - Is an extension of the Part 139 regulation
    - Becomes a legally binding document
  - Must always be current



# To Become a Certificated Airport...

- **Submit an application (FAA Form 5280-1)**
- **Provide a Letter of Intent**
- **Request a pre-certification inspection**
- **Submit copies of ACM (electronically)**
- **Meet all 139 ARFF requirements prior to issuance of the Airport Operating Certificate**



# An Airport Operating Certificate

U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation Administration**



**AIRPORT OPERATING CERTIFICATE**

*This certifies that (Airport Owner/Operator) as owner and operator of (Airport Name, City, State)*

*has met the requirements of the Title 49 USC, Subtitle VII – Aviation Program, and the rules, regulations, and standards prescribed thereunder for the issuance of this certificate, and is hereby authorized to operate as a certificated airport in accordance with and subject to said statute and the rules, regulations, and standards prescribed thereunder, including but not limited to 14 CFR Part 139, and any additional terms, conditions, and limitations contained herein or in the approved Airport Certification Manual on file with the Federal Aviation Administration.*

*This certificate is not transferable and, unless sooner surrendered, suspended or revoked, shall continue in effect.*

*Effective Date:* \_\_\_\_\_ *By Direction of the Administrator*

*Reissue Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Issued at:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Manager, Airports Division*

# Standards

We are  
**Airports** 



# Maintain Standards in Movement Area

## Safety Areas



## Marking/Lighting/Signs



## Paved Areas



## NAVAIDS



# Maintain Accident Mitigation Standards

## ARFF



## Airport Emergency Plan



# Safe Airport Operations - 1

- **Airport Condition Reporting**
- **Construction**
- **Ground Vehicle Operations**



# Safe Airport Operations - 2

- Fueling Operations
- Self-Inspection Program
- Snow & Ice Control Plan
- Wildlife Hazard Management



# ARFF

## (Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting)



# Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting

**Part 139 establishes:**

- **ARFF Indexes based on size and frequency of air carrier aircraft serving the airport**
- **Firefighting agents & vehicles required for each ARFF Index**



# ICAO Categories & FAA Indexes

- **ICAO Annex 14: Categories based on aircraft overall length & maximum fuselage width**
- **FAA Part 139.315: Index categories based on aircraft length**



# ICAO Annex 14 Categories

Category	Length (meters)	Fuselage Width
1	Less than 9	Less than 2
2	=> 9 and < 12	Less than 2
3	=> 12 and < 18	Less than 3
4	=> 18 and < 24	Less than 4
5	=> 24 and < 28	Less than 4
6	=> 28 and < 39	Less than 5
7	=> 39 and < 49	Less than 5
8	=> 49 and < 61	Less than 7
9	=> 61 and < 76	Less than 7
10	=> 76 and < 90	Less than 8

# FAA Part 139.315 Indexes

Index	Length (feet)
A	Less than 90
B	=> 90 and < 126
C	=> 126 and < 159
D	=> 159 and < 200
E	=> 200



# ARFF Requirements

- **Airports must provide ARFF Operations meeting the requirements of their ARFF Index during air carrier operations**
- **ARFF personnel must be properly equipped and trained**



# Self-Inspections



# Self-inspection Program - 1

- **Section 139.327 requires certificate holders to inspect the airport**
  - At least once daily
  - During construction activities
  - After severe storms
  - After an accident
- **Self-Inspection personnel must be properly trained -**  
Recurrent instruction documented at least once every 12 consecutive calendar months



# Self-inspection Program - 2

- **Key to maintaining airport certification**
- **Provides means for airport to correct unsafe conditions & ensure meeting of all minimum federal standards**
- **Same items FAA inspects during the annual inspection**



# FAA Inspections

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# Inspection Types

- **Initial/pre Airport Certification Inspection**
- **Scheduled Annual/Periodic Inspection**
- **Unscheduled Surveillance Inspection**



# Surveillance Inspections

- **May be announced or unannounced**
- **Usually scheduled:**
  - During major construction projects
  - Airport Emergency Plan exercise
  - Follow-up after an annual inspection
  - On report of a safety issue



# Inspection Frequency

Initial inspection done at **every** airport prior to issuing Airport Operating Certificate

Class	Frequency
I	9-15 month cycle
II	18 month cycle
III	18 month cycle
IV	24 month cycle



# Inspection Process





# Inspection Phases

- **Pre-inspection Meeting**
- **Administrative Review**
- **Movement Area Inspection**
- **Night Inspection**
- **Fueling Operations & Facilities**
- **Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting**
- **Airport Maintenance Operations**
- **Post Inspection Meeting**



# Pre-Inspection Meeting

- Initial meeting with key airport staff
- Discuss airport certification issues
- Coordinate inspection



# Administrative Phase

Review ACM & required records.

Examples:

Self-inspection checklists

NOTAMs

Fuel inspection checklists

Personnel training programs

Training records



# Movement Area Inspection

## Inspection of:

- Runways
- Taxiways
- Aprons
- Safety areas
- Approaches
- Wind indicators
- NAVAIDS
- Ground vehicles



# Night Inspection

## Check:

- All airfield lighting
- Signs
- Glass beads
- Wind indicators
- Beacon
- Obstruction lighting



# Inspection of Fueling Operations



- Inspect fuel trucks & fuel storage areas
- Observe fueling operations

# Inspection of ARFF

## Review:

- Training records
- ARFF trucks
- Protective clothing, equipment, & fire fighting agents
- Conduct a response test



# Inspection of Maintenance Operations



## Check:

- Maintenance equipment & procedures
- Snow removal equipment & materials

# Post-Inspection Meeting



## Discuss:

- **Inspection results**
- **Corrective actions & dates**

# Enforcement Actions



# Types of Enforcement Actions

- **Administrative Action**
  - Compliance Letter
  - Warning Letter
- **Legal Enforcement Action**
  - Civil Penalty
  - Certificate Suspension
  - Certificate Revocation



# Compliance Letter (CL)

- **Normally used after an inspection to document areas of non-compliance with Part 139 requirements**
  - Documents a discrepancy
  - Sets a correction date, negotiated between the inspector & airport operator
- **Legal enforcement action is used in situations where there is an ongoing problem, the airport operator does not have a constructive attitude or there is a significant safety issue**



# Compliance Letter - Top

May 12, 2016

EIR Number: 2016CE1200005 **1**

Mr. Airport Manager Airport Manager  
Plainview Municipal Airport 2790 Airport Blvd.  
Plainview, IA 50704

Dear Mr. Airport Manager:

**Compliance Letter**

**2** From (dates), the Federal Aviation Administration inspected your airport's organization, systems, facilities, and procedures for compliance with 14 C.F.R. part 139. At the end of that inspection, I advised you of the following findings:

**3**

- 1. 139.311 (c) – Marking, Signs, and Lighting**  
Taxiway lights at the intersection of Bravo and Alpha are not located in accordance with FAA standards specified in AC 150/5340-30, *Design and Installation Details for Airport Visual Aids*. Three taxiway lights on the radius of Taxiway Bravo must be relocated to not more than 10 feet from pavement edge.  
Correction Date: August 15, 2016
- 2. 139.311 (d) – Marking, Signs, and Lighting**  
Three light fixtures along Taxiway Alpha had broken globes. This is an indication that lighting systems are not maintained. These light fixtures have been replaced.

- 1. Enforcement Investigative Number**
- 2. Dates of Inspection**
- 3. Part 139 reference & description of discrepancy**

# Compliance Letter - Bottom

Instructions  
to airport

MUST BE REMOVED.

Correction Date: May 30, 2016

**6. 139.321 (c) – Handling and Storing of Hazardous Substances and Materials**

The certificate holder has failed to require Acme Aviation to comply with the following airport fire safety standards for mobile fuelers:

A “Flammable” sign on the right side of the Jet A mobile fueler has faded sufficiently so as to require replacement and must be replaced.

Correction Date: May 30, 2016

**7. 139.339 (c) (6) – Airport Condition Reporting**

A review of self-inspection checklists and NOTAM records revealed that NOTAMs were not issued for significant lighting outages caused by lightning strikes during the period from late June 2015 through mid-July 2015. Personnel responsible should be instructed to issue appropriate NOTAMs in the future.

Correction Date: May 30, 2016

We have given consideration to all available facts and concluded this matter does not warrant legal enforcement action. In lieu of such action, we are issuing this letter, which will be made a matter of record. Please advise (Name of FAA contact) at (FAA office, Region, and address) by return of this letter when the discrepancies are corrected no later than 15 days after the correction date. If you are unable to meet these dates, please notify me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

(ACST's Name)

Airport Certification Safety Inspector Attachment

# Compliance Letter - Attachment

## RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

### AIRPORT CERTIFICATION INSPECTION

Plainview Municipal Airport

May 12, 2006

The following recommendations/comments are provided as a result of the Airport Certification Inspection:

**Recommendation** – Membership in the ARFF Working Group would provide a means for obtaining additional resources for ARFF training. Information on the ARFF Working Group and membership is enclosed.

**Recommendation** – Thick brush in a drainage area between Runway 13-31 and Taxiway Charlie might attract deer. As discussed during the inspection, this brush was previously removed 3 years ago; however, it has grown back and presents a wildlife attractant, which could create a hazard.



# Questions?



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