



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: See Digital Signature

To: All Aircraft Certification Service Flight Test Branch (AIR-710) Personnel

From: Lance T. Gant, Director, Compliance and Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service, AIR-700

Prepared by: Addison Tower, Flight Test Program Flight Safety Officer, AIR-700

Subject: Release of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 4040.26C, *Aircraft Certification Service Flight Test Risk Management*

1. FAA Order 4040.26 Rev C, *Aircraft Certification Service Flight Test Risk Management*, was officially released October 5, 2021. All AIR-710 personnel are directed to use Order 4040.26 Rev C immediately if not already doing so. Order 4040.26 Rev C is available in the Dynamic Regulatory System at <https://drs.faa.gov> or via: http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices/
2. Revision C of Order 4040.26 contains significant changes from the previous revision, including:
 - a. Added the direction that “Each TIA/LOA must have an RM plan,” and removed reference to an RM plan applicable to an entire project. (Appendix C.3.i.1).
 - b. Added a new section, “Pre-Flight Type Certification Board (PFTCB)/Risk Management Review” (Appendix H).
 - c. Revised the flight test brief/debrief guide (Appendix B).
 - d. Revised the definition of probability to include a reference to the amount of exposure to the hazard.
 - e. Emphasizes that acceptance of risk for flight test execution is “an inherent responsibility of FAA flight test managers.”
 - f. Emphasizes that the FAA/ODA must review each project’s risk assessment to evaluate for the possibility of additional hazards and/or mitigations, not just mitigating procedures.
 - g. Explicitly states that the FAA will share SSE data with applicants and applicants should share SSEs with the FAA.

3. AIR-710 personnel are directed to share this memorandum in the following manner:
 - a. All AIR-710 DER advisors will e-mail an electronic copy of this memorandum to all of the Flight Test Pilot and Flight Analyst designees they advise NLT 4 Feb 22. This will serve as notice to company DERs that companies with an FAA-accepted RM process should ensure that process is compliant with the revised Order.
 - b. All AIR-710 OMT members will ensure an electronic copy of this memorandum is e-mailed by their OMT Lead to the ODA administrator for ODAs that are involved in certification flight test NLT 4 Feb 22. This will serve as notice to the ODA that it should ensure the flight test RM process in their procedures manual is compliant with the revised Order.
 - c. All AIR-710 Flight Test Section Managers will work with their supported ACO Managers/Program Managers/Project Engineers to e-mail an electronic copy of this memorandum to those applicants that conduct certification flight test activities NLT 4 Feb 22.
4. I am charging each of you to closely study Order 4040.26 Rev C and ensure you are incorporating the critical risk management principles contained in all job task flight testing activities. I highly encourage you to bring your questions, feedback, and suggestions for improvement to your Section Flight Safety Officers (SFSOs), your Flight Test Section Manager, your Flight Test Leadership Team (FTLT), and the Flight Test Program Flight Safety Officer.