

European Aviation Safety Agency

PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF MB DECISION 04-2005 ON OUTSOURCING ACCREDITATION SURVEILLANCE VISIT FREQUENCY TO NATIONAL AVIATION AUTHORITIES OR QUALIFIED ENTITIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Background

MB Decision 04-2005 puts in place measures to enable the allocation of certification tasks to Accredited NAA. The objective being to ensure a smooth transition of certification tasks from the NAA to EASA, recognising the changes in expertise within these organisations as EASA implements its recruitment programme.

A fundamental feature which enabled this objective to be achieved was the fact that many of the NAA had established within the JAA system, a level of mutual acceptance of their capability under the JAA PCA Standardisation process (ref Art 12 Transitional Measures). However, it should be noted that the JAA did not apply a common approach to their Standardisation processes, as can be seen when comparing the design, production and maintenance fields. For production and maintenance, a 2 year surveillance interval was used by JAA for the NAA, whereas for design the interval was every 3 years. The agreement reached with JAA HQ for the transfer of standardisation tasks to EASA transposed this difference in JAA surveillance visit frequencies into the EASA system.

Statement of Issue

At the time of the above MB Decision, the EASA staff recruitment plan and task internalisation strategy indicated that very little certification work would need to be allocated externally to NAA beyond the end of 2007. On this basis it would have appeared at the time that there would have been little, if any, need to accomplish more than one surveillance visit to many accredited NAA. However, for various reasons the planning has changed and as a consequence external certification task allocations to NAA are continuing, and will do so for some time to come. In addition the resources both with EASA and NAA have evolved differently from the original vision for transfer of technical staff/skills. As a consequence EASA procedures and processes have developed in response to the changes to the internal and external environments.

During the course of the year 2006 Accreditation Assessment visit programme, the suitability of the existing Accreditation procedure and surveillance visit schedule was evaluated by team members, taking into account the nature of findings raised at NAA. Based on this a number of "Lessons Learned" were defined. One of the key lessons was that the surveillance visit frequency anticipated in Art 9.2 of the MB Decision (based on the old JAA process) of "normally 3 years" was too long, due the changing situation of NAA under EASA, as opposed to the stable situation of NAA under JAA.

Proposal

In recognition of the above it is proposed that the text of Art 9.2 of MB Decision 04/2005 should be amended to reduce the "normal visit frequency" to 2 years.