



Standard Specification for Continued Airworthiness System for Lighter-Than-Air Light Sport Aircraft¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers continued airworthiness requirements for the manufacture of lighter-than-air light sport aircraft and their qualification for possible certification.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *airship*—engine-driven lighter-than-air aircraft that can be steered.

2.1.2 *balloon*—lighter-than-air aircraft that is not engine-driven, and that sustains flight through the use of either gas buoyancy or an airborne heater, or both.

2.1.3 *lighter-than-air aircraft*—aircraft that can rise and remain suspended by using contained gas weighing less than the air that is displaced by the gas.

2.1.3.1 *Discussion*—Airships may include dynamic lift that derive as much as 30 % lift from other than buoyancy.

3. Current Operators List Documentation

3.1 The manufacturer shall maintain a list of registered aircraft owners that includes all aircraft in service by serial number, registration number, together with the name and address of the owner.

3.2 In cases where the appropriate Civil Aviation Authority maintains records of registered owners sufficient for tracking

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aircraft and the manufacturer has access to such records, the manufacturer may elect to utilize such records for complying with this section.

4. Monitoring, Investigation, and Remedial Action

4.1 The manufacturer shall maintain contact with dealers and owners who report incidents or other situations that might relate to safety, operations, or maintenance of aircraft produced and placed in service. The manufacturer will promptly investigate all reported failures, malfunctions, or defects and develop the appropriate corrective action. The magnitude of the service problem will define the subsequent publication to the operators.

5. Safety Directives

5.1 A safety directive will be distributed to all operators when an unsafe condition is found to exist that may also exist in other aircraft in the fleet. When a safety directive is issued, immediately provide a copy to the appropriate airworthiness authority. A safety directive will require an action (change to operational limitations, an inspection, a replacement part or a design change, etc.) to specifically address an unsafe condition within a stated time frame. This required action is mandatory and must be performed and documented in the individual aircraft logs in order for that aircraft to maintain compliance with ASTM standards and continue to operate as an LSA aircraft. Noncompliance with any safety of flight bulletin will, at the minimum, result in the aircraft being put in the experimental category.

5.1.1 Manufacturers must have in place a process to gather and analyze service problems so that safety of flight issues can be addressed in a timely manner. Distribution of printed forms or making E-mail templates available is recommended. The printed form or template (or equivalent method) will provide to the operator a listing of critical malfunctions or failures that must be reported to the manufacturer in an expeditious manner.

5.1.2 Manufacturers must document all service difficulty reports and maintain a record of the analysis justifying the level of response.

6. Service Bulletin Documents

6.1 Service bulletins will be distributed to all operators by the manufacturer when no unsafe condition exists that could

lead to an unairworthy condition, but a service problem has become repetitive for which the manufacturer has developed a design change or service procedure change that will contribute to the improvement or convenience of operation or maintenance of the aircraft. Service bulletin changes are not mandatory to maintain the aircraft's compliance with ASTM standards.

7. Service Letter Documents

7.1 The manufacturer will issue service letters on any subject that is considered helpful to the operators. Such letters are intended to maintain a good rapport with the operators, encourage feedback on service and other problems, or to circulate items of interest that an operator may feel would be of value to other operators. A service letter does not include any mandatory operator actions.

8. Continuation of Airworthiness

8.1 *Copies Maintained*—In order to help insure that the fleet of aircraft remains airworthy even after the original manufacturer has ceased to exist as a viable business entity, the original manufacturer shall maintain documentation on file showing compliance with ASTM specifications. This documentation showing compliance with the standards and any safety directives shall be copied and maintained at a physically safe location. For purposes of this specification, a physically safe

location is one which is at least 33 m (100 ft) from the main production facility, such that a fire could not destroy both sets of records.

8.2 *Access Assurance*—This documentation should be available in such a manner that it can be properly obtained for continued airworthiness support in the event that existing avenues of recovering the information are destroyed. This documentation shall be retained such that in the event that a future entity wishes to continue supporting the airworthiness of the make and model involved, they may do so by making use of the original manufacturer's documentation. The original manufacturer may either keep these documents on file such that they will be available at any future date or shall turn them over to a responsible agency such as the FAA, or other responsible entity, for safe keeping. The location and contact for accessing these documents shall be presented in the Aircraft Operating Instructions, and any revision to this information shall be disseminated through service bulletins to the aircraft owners. Any acquisition of documentation for purposes of maintaining airworthiness shall follow the then applicable laws or rules concerning intellectual property rights.

9. Keywords

9.1 Aircraft Operating Instructions; airplane; airship; balloon; lighter-than-air; light sport aircraft; rotorcraft; special airworthiness certificate; weight shift control

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