



Memorandum

To: All FFI Cardholders
From: Bob Mills, FFI Administrator
CC: Sue Gardner, FAA NAES, AFS-800
Date: April 12, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Mills", is written over the "From" line of the memorandum header.

Re: FFI GUIDANCE ON TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE THE FAA AFS-800 DEVIATION MEMO OF APRIL 22, 2015 DURING THE 2016 AIRSHOW SEASON

This memo serves to promulgate FFI guidance to pilots that hold a Formation Flying, Inc (FFI) Formation Credential on the temporary continuing authority and limitations for the use of the FAA AFS-800 Deviation Memo dated April 22, 2015, and the follow-on guidance provided by FAA National Aviation Event Specialist (NAES), via e-mail dated March 31, 2016.

The original AFS-800 memo provided relief to pilots that hold Industry Formation Cards issued by FFI to deviate from specific parts of Change 86 of FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 6, section 1, paragraph 3-147 (3)(b), the policy stating that non-aerobatic maneuvers by multiple aircraft or aircraft in formation with an energy vector directed towards the primary spectator area are prohibited, unless approved in accordance with paragraph 3-149 of the Order (i.e., with a Maneuvers Package). The relief provided by the original memo was to be provided only until Change 86 of FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 6, Section 1 is rescinded, and a new change to that Order has been approved and implemented.

The e-mail from FAA NAES of March 31, 2016 continues the relief granted by the original AFS-800 memo into 2016, and adds the notification that the end date of the relief provided by the original memo will be defined, as will the implementation period of the next change to the FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 6, Section 1, when the policy change is approved and disseminated. *In plain language, the end of the grace period for conducting maneuvers in a CoW utilizing this memo will be defined upon approval of the next FAA Order 8900.1 Policy Document.* The NAES e-mail also clarifies the relief provided to FFI Cardholders, as follows:

1. All FFI Cardholders, by virtue of having been evaluated by a duly appointed FFI Check Pilot for the issuance of their Industry Formation Credential, are granted relief to conduct non-aerobatic maneuvers that direct the energy of multiple aircraft or aircraft in formation toward the primary spectator area, while performing under a CoW for an airshow. To clarify, this authorization allows non-aerobatic flybys of single formations, multiple formations in trail, or multiple solo aircraft in trail. In-trail is defined as when the aircraft (or formation) is more than 500 feet from the referenced aircraft or formation (e.g. during a parade overflight, a flyby, or a racetrack pattern of flybys). Reversal turns inside and outside the Flying Display area are authorized. Formation Configuration/Position (shape) changes of a single formation are authorized, but the change must be completed, and the formation must be stable, prior to the energy vector being directed at, or passing through, the primary spectator area. Formation Separations (bomb-bursts, switchblades), crossing passes and opposing maneuvers are not authorized, unless the provisions of paragraph 2 below are met.
2. Members of 11 FFI performing teams, as listed in the attachment to the FAA NAES e-mail of March 31, 2016, by virtue of having been evaluated and approved by a duly appointed FFI Check Pilot in specific maneuvers, are authorized to continue to conduct the evaluated maneuvers, and a mix of non-aerobatic maneuvers that involve multiple aircraft and formation aircraft that direct energy toward the primary spectator area, while performing under a CoW for an airshow. To clarify, this authorization allows these 11 teams to conduct all authorized non-aerobatic maneuvers outlined in paragraph 1 above, and allows these 11 teams to conduct Formation Separations (bomb-bursts, switchblades), crossing passes and opposing maneuvers.

All FFI Cardholders are responsible for compliance with all aspects of the AFS-800 Deviation memo dated April 22, 2015, the FAA NAES e-mail dated March 31, 2016, and this memo. These three documents (the FAA memo and e-mail, and this FFI memo) are required to be carried by all FFI Cardholders when exercising the privileges of their FFI Formation Credential while performing under a CoW for an airshow. The 11 FFI performing teams that are authorized to conduct maneuvers outlined in paragraph 2 above, must also carry the team listing. All 3 FAA documents (deviation memo, e-mail and team listing) have been provided to all FFI cardholders, and may also be downloaded as a single PDF file from on the FAA National Aviation Events Program Website <http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/> under Aviation Event Programs and Partners; Formation Programs; AFS-800 Deviation Memo.

For questions, please contact Bob Mills, FFI Administrator, at 775-544-3511, or at rvmills@sbcglobal.net. The contact information for Sue Gardner, NAES, is available on the original AFS-800 Deviation Memo, and the NAES e-mail referred to in this FFI memo.