



Experimental Aircraft Association

E-LSA Trainer Airworthiness Certification and LODA Toolkit

Current Experimental Light Sport Aircraft (E-LSA) that are being used for primary training under FAR 91.319(e)(2) have airworthiness certificates that expire on 31 January 2010. The regulations do not allow issuance of a new airworthiness certificate for these aircraft, which means that they will no longer be able to fly legally unless their airworthiness certificates are amended before they expire. Further, the aircraft will no longer be eligible to be used for hire for flight training unless the owner applies for a Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) under 91.319(h). Note that the airworthiness certificate must be amended in order to allow continued operation of the aircraft regardless of whether it will be used for hire for flight training or not.

The FAA is sending out a memo to their field inspectors, guiding them how to amend the airworthiness certificate and operating limitations for these E-LSAs;

- The applicant **MUST** apply and be issued an amended certificate before January 31, 2010.
- The re-inspection of the aircraft is not required for these previously certificated Part 21 aircraft operating with a training exemption.
- Airworthiness Certificate will be amended per FAA Order 8130.2F, Paragraph 27(b). Amended certificate will be of unlimited duration; have the operating limitation allowing flight instruction for compensation or hire removed; and removed limitations for maintenance inspection requirements of training-use aircraft as applicable.
- The FAA inspector will retain the limitation which allows for the towing of light-sport aircraft or unpowered ultralight vehicles in accordance with 91.319(e)(1).

Guidance is also being added to the FSDO inspectors handbook (FAA Order 8900.1) instructing them how to issue the Letter of Deviation Authority under 91.319(h). LODAs will be granted on a case-by-case basis and therefore, not guaranteed. 91.319(h)(2) states that “a request for deviation authority must contain a complete description of the proposed operation and justification that establishes a level of safety equivalent to that provided under the regulations for the deviation requested.” Operators must bring in this description (this includes a letter describing the type of training and must include a list of the aircraft used, the instructor qualifications, and an appropriate training course outline) to the FSDO in order to be granted the LODA. Note that you are not required to apply for a LODA if you do not plan to use your aircraft for hire for flight training after having your airworthiness certificate and operating limitations amended. However, you **MUST** have your operating limitations amended **BEFORE** the expiration date in order to continue to legally operate the aircraft after 31 January 2010.

EAA recommends you contact your local FSDO and make an appointment with both the operations and certification branches the same day. You can locate your local FSDO by calling

EAA at 888-322-4636, extension 4821, 920-426-4821, or by using the [FAA FSDO locator](#) web site. Remember, if you amend your airworthiness certificate without obtaining the LODA, you will not be able to use your E-LSA for flight training until you apply for and receive the LODA.

In order to expedite the process, EAA recommends you submit your paperwork in advance of your appointment to allow the Inspectors time to process your request. Call the FSDO and tell them you'll be mailing (or faxing if they allow it) them a letter requesting an amendment to your airworthiness certificate and a new/initial Letter of Deviation Authority, along with copies (DO NOT mail your originals – just in case they get lost in the mail) of your current airworthiness certificate, aircraft registration, and operating limitations. Let them know you'll bring in the original documents for exchange when the new ones are ready – you can't fly your aircraft without the original documents in the aircraft so hang onto them as long as you can. Do not let them refer you to a Designated Airworthiness Representative (DAR) for the amendment because a light-sport aircraft DAR does not have the authority to do this – only a FAA FSDO Safety Inspector can do the paperwork.

[FAA Order 8130.2F](#), Chapter 2, Section 2, paragraph 27(b)(1)(d) and 27(b)(6) describe the process for a Special Airworthiness Certificate Amendment and Operating Limitations update. The FAA is not required to re-inspect your aircraft for this type of administrative procedure – per 27(b)(6).

Obtain the [FAA Form 8130-6](#) “Application for Airworthiness Certificate” and a copy of [AC 21-12](#) “Application for U.S. Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8230-6” from the FAA website or your local FSDO office.

This is what the cover letter to the FSDO should look like:

Name and address of your local FSDO

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with FAA Order 8130.2F paragraph 27(b)(1)(d) and 27(b)(6), this application is being submitted to amend my current special airworthiness certificate and update my operating limitations to remove the authorization to conduct flight training under §91.319(e) and expiration date of January 31, 2010. To accomplish this amendment action I have enclosed FAA Form 8130-6, the current airworthiness certificate, aircraft registration, and operating limitations for my aircraft, N_____, for your reference.

In accordance with §91.319(h) and FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 11, Section 1, I am also applying for a Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) for the purpose of conducting flight training in my experimental light-sport aircraft per Part 61 Subpart J and K, and §61.56. Attached is a complete description of the proposed operation and justification that establishes a level of safety equivalent to that provided under the regulations for the deviation requested. The type of training is described along with a list of the aircraft to be used, the instructor qualifications, and an appropriate training course outline. [Omit this paragraph if you are not applying for the LODA]

I will be calling the FSDO on _____ (date) to set up an office visit to complete both of these actions.

Sincerely,

Your name

Address

Phone number

If you have any further questions, contact the EAA Information Services department at 888-322-4636, ext. 6806, or e-mail info@eaa.org.