



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

AIRWORTHINESS PROTOCOL

(COA.01) - Certificates of Airworthiness

September 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our offices are located and their continuing connection to land, water and community, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Inside front cover artwork: James Baban.

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1 Purpose

An aircraft is not permitted to fly unless it has shown to conform to its certified type design and is in a condition for safe operation. Aircraft airworthiness certification is the process of assessing an aircraft against its type design, and ensuring the aircraft is in a condition for safe operation. Satisfactory completion of this process culminates in issue of a Certificate of Airworthiness (CofA) for the individual aircraft.

Standard CofA are issued to aircraft that conform to a type design (demonstrated by the existence of a type certificate) and are in a condition for safe operation.

Special CofA are issued to permit the operation of aircraft that do not meet the requirements of Annex 8 of the Chicago Convention – ‘Airworthiness of Aircraft’ or because of certain modifications that do not conform to their TCs, but are capable of safe operation under defined operating conditions and purposes.

2 Concept and philosophy

A CofA (standard or special) is necessary for each individual aircraft on the Australian Civil Aircraft Register as one of the legal conditions to being able to fly (unless the aircraft is operated under a Special Flight Permit).

The obligation on Contracting States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to issue CofAs is specified in Article 31 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the 'Chicago Convention') and Part II, Section 3 of ICAO Annex 8 Airworthiness of Aircraft. A CofA may be issued to an individual aircraft on the basis of evidence that the aircraft complies with the applicable airworthiness requirements, and that the aircraft has been satisfactorily constructed and maintained.

3 Process

- a. All associated persons must be knowledgeable, familiar and competent with Airworthiness Principle (COA.01) - Certificates of Airworthiness.
- b. All administration tasks should follow standard regulatory service administration procedures as applicable.
- c. Any one of the following four forms must be completed in full by the applicant prior to the initiation of a formal assessment. No other format for an application is acceptable.
 - i. FORM 717 – Application for Standard Certificate of Airworthiness, or
 - ii. FORM 718 – Application for Special Certificate of Airworthiness, or
 - iii. FORM 722 – Application for issue of an Export Certificate of Airworthiness, or
 - iv. FORM 682 – Application for Special Certificate of Airworthiness or Experimental Certificate for Light Sports Aircraft
 - v. Form 1000 - Certificate of Airworthiness Due to Change of Registration Mark Application & Approval
- d. FORM 882 – Conformity Inspection Records must be used if an aircraft inspection is required as part of the CofA process.
- e. Worksheet (COA.01) provides the detailed steps for the complete assessment. All steps must be confirmed by a competent person as satisfactory (or otherwise).
- f. Approval of the issue of a Certificate of Airworthiness is provided by a delegate or authorised person approved to do so under CASR 21.176. In the instance of a Limited Category CofA, a limited category organisation may approve the issue of the CofA.
- g. In the special circumstance of a request for a replacement Certificate of Airworthiness, approval of the replacement is provided by a delegate approved to do so under CASR 11.115. Worksheet (COA.01) must still be completed to record the decision, using section 7.3 of the Airworthiness Principle (COA.01) - Certificates of Airworthiness.
- h. Following approval, the formal notification of the approval must be sent to the applicant with a copy of the certificate using FORM 719 for standard CofA or FORM 720 for special CofA.

4 List of supplements

Only the following supplements may be used in support of this protocol. The most recently approved versions will be found on the CASA intranet website. Approved forms are located on CASA's external website.

- Principle – (COA.01) Certificates of Airworthiness
- Worksheet – (COA.01) Certificates of Airworthiness
- Form 717 – Application for Standard Certificate of Airworthiness
- Form 718 – Application for Special Certificate of Airworthiness
- Form 722 – Application for issue of an export Certificate of Airworthiness
- Form 682 – Application for Special Certificate of Airworthiness or Experimental Certificate for Light Sports Aircraft
- Form 882 – Conformity Inspection Record
- Form 719 - Standard Certificate of Airworthiness
- Form 720 - Special Certificate of Airworthiness.
- Form 1000 - Certificate of Airworthiness Due to Change of Registration Mark Application & Approval

5 Scope

This protocol considers the aspects for assessing the application for a Standard, Special or Export Certificate of Airworthiness. Experimental Certificates are considered in Protocol (COA.02) – Experimental Certificates.

6 Competency requirements

CASA032A - Assess applications for a standard Certificate of Airworthiness

CASA087A - Assess applications for a special Certificate of Airworthiness

7 References

7.1 Associated legislation

Table 1. Legislation associated with this protocol

Document	Title
CASR Subpart 21.H	Certificates of airworthiness (except provisional certificates of airworthiness) and special flight permits

7.2 Guidance references

Table 2. Guidance material relevant to this protocol

Document	Title
AC 21-1	Aircraft Airworthiness Certification Categories and Designations explained
AC 21-2	Standard Certificates of Airworthiness
AC 21-3	Special Certificates of Airworthiness
AC 21-5	Limited Category Aircraft - Certification
AC 21-6	Restricted Category Aircraft - Certification
AC 21-7	Primary Category Aircraft - Certification
FAA Order 8130.2J	Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft

7.3 ICAO references

Table 3. ICAO references applicable to this protocol

Document	Title
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 31 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation Annex 8, Part II, Airworthiness of Aircraft
Guidance material	Doc 9760, Part III, Chapter 4, Certificate of Airworthiness
Protocol questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIR 5.149, AIR 5.151, AIR 5.152, AIR 5.183, AIR 5.185, AIR 5.187 & AIR 5.671

8 Revision history

Amendments/revisions of this protocol are recorded below in order of most recent first.

Table 4. Revision history table

Version No.	Date	Parts/Sections	Details
1.1	April 2021	3. Process	Added requirement for replacement CofA must be 11.115 delegate.
1.0	June 2020	All	First issue