

Paper or Plastic: how do you like your regulations?

By
Ric Peri

Having access to the aviation regulations is fundamental for all aviation businesses. They not only provide the guidance for the performance of tasks but in many cases the regulations provide guidance on the organization and operation of aviation businesses. Knowing the regulations and having access to the Federal Aviation Regulations are essential for every aviation business.

The question is: do you want to keep them in paper or plastic? The aviation regulations are available in traditional paper format or electronic format: in either CD/DVD format or internet format.

Following a survey of business owners, managers and regulators it is clear that each format offers advantages and disadvantages.

For the business manager who likes to highlight references and make notes in the margins, a traditional book format is desirable. The disadvantage to the paper is that you lose all of your notes when the annual regulations are upgraded with a new edition. But some people are more comfortable learning with a text book - page by page, page markers, highlighters, and notes.

The electronic CD or DVD versions have distinct and different benefits. This format allows for word search capabilities plus is easily updated and very transportable. There are many

facilities which have the regulatory database on a companywide server with total and complete access for every employee that would have any need to review the regulations. There are also some individuals with a need for complete transportability and have loaded the entire Federal Aviation Regulations on their PDA for immediate access.

Before you can decide which format is desirable, an understanding of the regulations themselves may be in order.

The Federal Aviation Regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). And the basic format of the CFR is:

Title

Chapter

Part

Subpart

Section

Paragraph

For aviation it looks something like this:

Title 14 CFR - Aeronautics and Space
Chapter I - Federal Aviation
Administration, Department of
Transportation
Parts 1 through Part 198

For aircraft replacement parts this regulatory structure reads like:

Title 14 CFR - Aeronautics and Space

Chapter I - Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation

Part 21 - Aircraft;

Subpart K - Approval of Materials, Parts, Processes, and Appliances;

Section, 21.303 - Replacement and modification parts; Paragraphs a through k.

There are five Chapters contained within Title 14:

- Chapter I contains the basic aviation regulations managed by the Federal Aviation Administration;
- Chapter II contains the Secretary of Transportation regulations applicable to aviation proceedings;
- Chapter III contains the regulations for Commercial Space Transportation;
- Chapter V, 1200-1299 addresses the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Chapter VI is applicable to the Air Transportation System Stabilization. This part is issued by the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB) pursuant to Title I of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, Public Law 107-42, 115 Stat. 230 ("Act"). Specifically, Section 102(c)(2)(B) directs OMB to issue regulations setting

forth procedures for application and minimum requirements for the issuance of Federal credit instruments under section 101(a)(1) of the Act.

The scope of the aviation regulations you need will be based on the scope of your business. A maintenance organization needs the basic maintenance regulations (Parts 43, 65, and possibly 145), and the maintenance sections of the operating regulations (Parts 91, 135, or 121, etc.). If they are engaged in altering aircraft (installing new equipment) or evaluating previous alterations (a routine requirement as a function of annual and progressive inspections), you will also need the certification standards for that particular aircraft (Parts 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, etc.) and will also need to include earlier certification standards issued by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Regardless of the specific regulations you will need, the commercially available paper copies of the Federal Aviation Regulations can be purchased from either the Federal government directly or through a commercial vendor.

The commercial versions of the regulations typically are divided into two major disciplines: aircraft flight operations or aircraft maintenance. The aircraft maintenance version of the regulations will typically cover all of the technical issues of aircraft design, certification and continued airworthiness (maintenance). These will often include the basic operational maintenance requirements of Parts 91, 135, and 121.

Aircraft flight operations will typically cover the remaining regulations which

may govern how an aircraft is flown and operated in the FAA controlled airspace.

Commercial paper copies of the operations and maintenance regulations are often available from a pilot's supply store at a local airport, or available through many of the aviation mail order houses.

Many of the commercial publications are published by [Aviation Supplies and Academics](#) (ASA). ASA has been a leader and innovator in aviation publications since 1947.

The "official" regulations as printed by the Government Printing Office are available from the U.S. Government Online Bookstore.

You can order the Federal Aviation Regulations, FAA Advisory Circulars as well as other federal publications available for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The [online bookstore](#) provides the information you need to order books online, via mail, fax, phone, teletype, or by visiting one of the U.S. Government bookstores nationwide.

The Code of Federal Regulations applicable to aviation is divided into 5 volumes. You do not need to purchase all 5 volumes but rather only purchase the volumes that are applicable to the work you anticipate doing.

Volume I: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Aeronautics and Space, Pt. 1-59,

This volume is the basic of most needs for aircraft (including

parts) certification, aircraft maintenance, and obtaining security instruments against an aircraft, engine or propeller. This book includes the general definitions applicable to all of the regulations; the procedural rules, including the regulations applicable to anyone who sells parts; and the regulations applicable to aircraft, accessories and component part certification. This book also includes basic regulations applicable to the maintenance, preventive maintenance, rebuilding, and alteration of aircraft, accessories and parts, and the requirements for recording of security interests.

Volume II: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Aeronautics and Space, Pt. 60-139,

This volume contains the regulations about people, businesses and the general flight operating rules and the rules for air charter. The certification of pilots, mechanics, dispatchers and parachute riggers as well as a range of other certificated persons is contained in this book. Subchapter D - Airmen (Parts 61-67); Subchapter E - Airspace (Parts 71-77); Subchapter F - Air Traffic and General Operating Rules (Parts 91-105); Subchapter G - Air Carriers and Operators for Compensation or Hire: Certification and Operations (Parts 119-139).

Volume III: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Aeronautics and Space, Pt. 140-199,

This publication covers the standards for pilot schools, training centers and maintenance technician schools. The book also contains the business organization of maintenance facilities.

In addition you will find the standards for airports and navigational facilities, administrative regulations and War Risk Insurance.

Volume IV: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Aeronautics and Space, Pt. 200-1199,

Chapter II Parts 200-399, addresses Aviation Proceedings from the Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation. Chapter III, Parts 400-1199, address Commercial Space Transportation.

Volume V: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Aeronautics and Space, Pt. 1200-End,

Chapter V, 1200-1299 addresses the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Chapter VI, Parts 1300-1399, provides guidance on the Air Transportation System Stabilization.

[Aircraft Technical Publishers](#) (ATP) is a source for commercial aviation maintenance, regulatory and compliance electronic information products and

services. They deliver expedited access to information to serve the diverse needs of the general aviation industry.

[Summit Aviation](#) also provides a fully searchable database of vital aviation publications, updated bi-weekly ensuring users with the most complete, up-to-date aviation regulatory data, for everyone involved in the aviation industry.

The availability of commercially available formats of the aviation regulations, airworthiness directives and other important information is not limited to just the listed companies but these companies are quite popular in general aviation businesses.

If you are interested in the freebies, you can access the Federal Aviation Regulations for free in the library of [Aviation Entrepreneur Magazine](#), from the [FAA's website](#) or directly from the [Government Printing Office](#) (GPO).

[GPO Access](#) is a service of the U.S. Government Printing Office that provides free electronic access to a wealth of important information products produced by the Federal Government. The information provided on this site is the official, published version and the information retrieved from GPO Access can be used without restriction, unless specifically noted. This free service is funded by the Federal Depository Library Program and has grown out of Public Law 103-40, known as the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Enhancement Act of 1993.

Regardless of your sources, take the time to not only access the regulations but be

familiar with the regulations that are applicable to your unique business.