

SPECIAL FLIGHT PERMITS (FERRY PERMITS)

by Cathy Van Assche

Special flight permits are issued for aircraft that may not currently meet applicable airworthiness requirements but are capable of safe flight. A special flight permit is not an authorization to deviate from the requirements of FAR Part 91.

Application for an Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8130-6, and Special Airworthiness Certificate, FAA Form 8130-7 are used for the administration of special flight permits under FAR Part 21.197 and 21.199.

The validity of the special flight permit is not affected by the operation of the aircraft outside the border of the United States, so long as it is operated for the intended purpose under FAR Part 21.197 and within the time frame specified on the permit. The special flight permit does not authorize flight over countries other than the United States without permission of that country.

Special flight permits may be issued for the following purposes:

1. Flying the aircraft to a base where repairs, alterations, or maintenance are to be performed, or to a point of storage.
2. Delivering or exporting the aircraft.
3. Production flight testing new production aircraft.
4. Evacuating aircraft from areas of impending danger.
5. Conducting customer demonstration flights in new production aircraft that have satisfactorily completed production flight tests.

A special flight permit may also be issued to authorize the operation of an aircraft at a weight in excess of its maximum certificated takeoff weight for flight beyond the normal range over water, or over land

areas where adequate landing facilities or appropriate fuel is not available.

The following specific operations are also considered to be within the scope of the FAR provisions:

- a. Any flight of a U.S. registered aircraft covered by FAR Part 21.197, if the aircraft is capable of safe flight, even though a Type Certificate has not been issued.
- b. The delivery of an aircraft of either U.S. or non-U.S. manufacture to the base of the purchaser or to a storage point in the United States.
- c. The operation of non-air carrier four engine aircraft with one engine inoperative. The provisions of FAR Part 91.611 should be used as a guide.
- d. For flying an aircraft whose annual inspection has expired to a base where an annual inspection can be accomplished.
- e. For flying an amateur-built aircraft whose condition inspection has expired to a base where the condition inspection can be accomplished.

As always, an appropriate and current airworthiness certificate and an effective U.S. registration certificate is required to operate the aircraft. Therefore, a special flight permit will not be issued unless evidence is provided of those two documents. When the application for a special flight permit is found in compliance with all requirements, the FAA will issue FAA Form 8130-7, together with operating limitations deemed necessary for safe operation. The operating limitations will be enumerated on a separate sheet, identified by the aircraft registration and serial number, dated and signed. The applicant should be advised that the FAA Form 8130-7 and attached operating limitations must be displayed in the aircraft in accordance with FAR Part 91.203(b).

The operating limitations will generally require that the flight be made in

accordance with visual flight rules, day only and that the occupants shall be limited to crew essential for the purpose of the flight. This special flight permit is not valid unless an appropriately certificated mechanic or repair station certifies in the aircraft records that the aircraft is in safe condition for the flight intended.

These forms may be obtained through your local FAA FSDO. In addition, the FAA may assist the applicant by completing an FAA Form 8130-6 based on information furnished by telephone, letter, or facsimile. The transmission of a special flight permit via FAX allows the aircraft to be moved when the flight cannot be delayed for the time period normally required for the delivery of the FAA Form 8130-7. The FAX transmitted special flight permit is to be used only for purposes 1 or 4 above. If you have any questions contact your local FSDO.

*Corrections have been made to the article. Required evidence of an airworthiness certificate and registration certificate have been deleted.