
TDOT AERONAUTICS ENGINEERING UPDATE

PREPARING FOR AIRSHOWS AND OTHER AVIATION EVENTS

REQUIRED COORDINATION

IMPORTANT: Airport Operators that propose to hold an airshow at their airport must coordinate with FAA in advance of the event. To limit delays, this coordination should occur several months in advance of the actual date of the airshow. Because this coordination addresses both safety and compliance matters, operators for Federally obligated airports need to coordinate with two separate FAA offices:

- 1) Flight Standards Division (Safety) Office and
- 2) Airports Division Office (Compliance and Part 139).

FLIGHT STANDARDS — CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION

Airport Operators that propose an airshow must have a *Certificate of Waiver or Authorization* ([FAA Form 7711-1](#)) that is issued by the appropriate FAA [Tennessee Flight Standards District Office](#) (FSDO). For airports certificated under [14 CFR Part 139](#) (XML), Flight Standards will not issue this *Certificate of Waiver or Authorization* until the FAA Regional Airports Division reviews the proposal and offers their concurrence with the events [Ground Operations Plan](#).

The plan must address the Part 139-related requirements impacted by the airshow and be approved by an airport safety certification inspector. Unless temporary arresting gear needs to be installed for military flight demonstrations, this requirement should have minimal impact on airport operators. Once the Ground Operations Plan is approved, the airport certification inspector will send a letter to the airport operator and notify the appropriate Flight Standards District Office.

FAA AIRPORTS DIVISION — COMPLIANCE

Airport operators who propose an airshow at an airport that has previously received Federal funds must also provide a separate notification to the Southern Region Compliance Specialist. The purpose of this coordination is to assure compliance with current Federal obligations such as operating the airport in a safe manner. For contact information and staff assignments for FAA Southern Regional Airports Division, click [here](#).

TYPES OF AVIATION EVENTS

There are many types of aviation events including, but not limited to:

- Airshow
- Air Race
- Balloon operations
- Parachuting
- Flyover
- Aerobatic Practice Area (APA)/Aerobatics Contest Box (ACB)
- Formation
- Military
- UAS

Guidance on these events and many others can be found under the FAA's [National Aviation Events Program](#). **Fly-ins and trade shows can even be considered aviation events. If aircraft movement or maneuvering areas such as taxiways and aprons are impacted, coordination with the FAA is required.**

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OTHER COORDINATION AND NOTIFYING THE AERONAUTICS DIVISION

Remember that public-use airports have an obligation to remain open to the public. Any aviation event that limits the access and/or use of a facility must be carefully coordinated with stakeholders including the FAA as well as tenants and others.

TDOT's Aeronautics Division is appreciative of all the ways that aviation is promoted and celebrated within the state. A cornerstone to our mission is providing a system is safe and efficient. Coordination with the Aeronautics Division is not required, but we do ask that you notify the Director of Aeronautics anytime you are coordinating an event with the FAA. Our office will be glad to help facilitate any coordination efforts.

Sincerely,



John-Paul Saalwaechter [sawl véktər], P.E. | CE Manager 2
Aeronautics Division