



Memorandum

To: All FFI Cardholders
From: Bob Mills, FFI President
CC: Sue Gardner, FAA NAES, AFS-800
Date: March 7, 2018

Re: 2018 UPDATED FFI GUIDANCE ON THE EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE THE FAA AFS-800 DEVIATION MEMO OF APRIL 22, 2015 DURING THE 2018 AIRSHOW SEASON

This memo serves to promulgate FFI guidance to pilots that hold a Formation Flying, Inc (FFI) Formation Credential, on the temporary continuing authority and limitations for the use of the FAA AFS-800 Deviation Memo dated April 22, 2015, which has now been extended into the 2018 airshow season by Sue Gardner, National Aviation Events Specialist, via an e-mail dated March 7, 2018. The extension end date is defined in that e-mail as to "be defined when the policy change [FAA Order 8900.1 Volume 3, Chapter 6 Section 1] developed in collaboration with ICAS, FFI, FAST, and EAA WoA is approved and disseminated via FSIMS". *In plain language, the end of the grace period for conducting maneuvers in a CoW utilizing this memo will be defined upon approval of the next FAA Order 8900.1 Policy Document.* From my discussions with Sue, I know that she would like that date to be August 1, 2018. When we have a firm date, we will promulgate it.

What does this mean to you in the field?

The original AFS-800 memo provided relief to pilots that hold Industry Formation Cards issued by FFI to deviate from specific parts of Change 86 of FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 6, section 1, paragraph 3-147 (3)(b), the policy stating that non-aerobatic maneuvers by multiple aircraft or aircraft in formation with an energy vector directed towards the primary spectator area are *prohibited*, unless approved in accordance with paragraph 3-149 of the Order (i.e., with a Maneuvers Package). Since we in FFI do not utilize maneuvers packages, this allows us additional authorizations that otherwise would be prohibited.

The NAES e-mail also clarifies the relief provided to FFI Cardholders, as follows:

1. All FFI Cardholders, by virtue of having been evaluated by a duly appointed FFI Check Pilot for the issuance of their Industry Formation Credential, are granted relief to conduct non-aerobatic maneuvers that momentarily direct the energy of multiple aircraft or aircraft in formation toward the primary spectator area, while performing under a CoW for an airshow. To clarify, this authorization allows non-aerobatic flybys that sweep the energy vector through the primary spectator area, as long as the formation is stable (not changing shape), as the energy vector is passed through the crowd. These flybys may be of single formations, multiple formations in trail, or multiple solo aircraft in trail. In-trail is defined as when the aircraft (or formation) is more than 500 feet from the referenced aircraft or formation (e.g. during a parade overflight, a flyby, or a racetrack pattern of flybys, such as a snake-dance). Reversal turns, both inside and outside the Flying Display Area, that momentarily sweep the primary spectator area area are authorized. Formation Configuration/Position (shape) changes of a single formation are authorized, but the change must be completed, and the formation must be stable, prior to the energy vector being directed at, or passing through, the primary spectator area. Formation Separations (bomb-bursts, switchblades), crossing passes and opposing maneuvers are not authorized, unless the provisions of paragraph 2 below are met.
2. Members of 11 FFI performing teams, as listed in the attachment to the FAA NAES e-mail of March 7, 2018, are authorized to conduct all authorized non-aerobatic maneuvers outlined in paragraph 1 above, and are also authorized to conduct Formation Separations (bomb-bursts, switchblades), crossing passes and opposing maneuvers. The way it is worded, by virtue of having been evaluated and approved by a duly appointed FFI Check Pilot in *specific* maneuvers, these teams are authorized to continue to conduct the evaluated maneuvers, and a mix of non-aerobatic maneuvers that involve multiple aircraft and formation aircraft that direct energy toward the primary spectator area, while performing under a CoW for an airshow. *In plain language, these 11 teams may continue to perform what will become known as Formation Dynamic Maneuvering until the grace period ends in 2018.*

All FFI Cardholders are responsible for compliance with all aspects of the AFS-800 Deviation memo dated April 22, 2015, the FAA NAES e-mail dated March 7, 2018, and this memo. The FAA Deviation Memo and the extension e-mail are required to be carried by all FFI Cardholders when exercising the privileges of their FFI Formation Credential while performing under a CoW for an airshow. The 11 FFI performing teams that are authorized to conduct maneuvers outlined in paragraph 2 above must also carry the team listing. All 3 FAA documents (deviation memo, e-mail and team listing) are available on the FFI website.

For questions, please contact Bob Mills, FFI President, at 775-544-3511, or at rvmills@sbcglobal.net or Tim Redden, FFI Vice President, at (916) 804-7704 or tim@reddens.net. The contact information for Sue Gardner, NAES, is available on the original AFS-800 Deviation Memo, and the NAES e-mail referred to in this FFI memo.