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# Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Information Sheet for New Part 91 RVSM Letter of Authorization

**NOTE**: FAA Advisory Circular 91-85 (), *Authorization of Aircraft and Operators for Flight in Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Airspace* contains information on airworthiness, continuing airworthiness, and operations programs for Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) operations. The AC is not mandatory and does not constitute a regulation. It describes an acceptable means, but not the only means, for authorization of aircraft and operators to conduct flight in airspace or on routes where RVSM is applied.

Attached is an information sheet package that was developed to assist operators in organizing information required to show compliance for a part 91 Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Letter of Authorization (LOA).

The package consists of three parts:

- 1. An Information Sheet to organize RVSM information
- 2. Attachment A an instruction guide
- 3. Attachment B the RVSM Authorization Decision Matrix from FAA AC 91-85B

The information sheet in this package was developed to support the streamlined process recommended by the Performance Based Operations Aviation Rulemaking Committee (PARC) RVSM LOA Process Enhancement Team (composed of FAA & industry representatives). The information sheet is based upon the RVSM Authorization Decision Matrix from the AC 91-85B, Appendix F.

Not all boxes may be required to be filled out. **Read fully Attachments A and B.** Pre-coordination with the responsible Safety Office is strongly encouraged.

**NOTE:** This package consolidates required items from various FAA and ICAO documents to aid personnel in determining compliance with part 91, Appendix G. The package itself does not constitute regulatory guidance.

#### Section 1 – Identifying Information

1a. Determine	Nar	ne:							
responsible Flight Standards Safety	Add	lress:							
Office	City	<i>r</i> :				State:		Zip Code:	
						l		l	
1b. Operator Name		The operator nar	ne:						
1.c.		N/A							
1d. Aircraft M/M-S - (S)	Maı	nufacturer/Model		Registration Number	Sei Nu	rial mber	Mode	S Code	
Aircraft Seating	Nur	nber of Passenger	Seats:			Number o	of Crew S	Seats:	
	l .				-				
1e. Aircraft Base	Airr	oort Code:	Airport A	Address:					
1e. Aircraft Base of Operations	Airp	oort Code:	Airport /	Address:		State:		Zip Code:	
	Airp	oort Code:	•	Address:		State:		Zip Code:	

**1g.** The aircraft identified is equipped to meet all requirements for operations in RVSM airspace. This is shown by original design or alteration records that document compliance with 14 CFR Part 91, Appendix G. The Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM) and Flight Manual Supplements and supporting Manufacturer's Operating Guides required by those documents are available to the flight crew. The aircraft, records, and documents are available for FAA inspection.

NOTE: Operators should be fully cognizant with RVSM requirements, including status of all required maintenance. Prior to conducting operations in RVSM designated airspace it is necessary that the aircraft meet all applicable RVSM airworthiness requirements.

## Section 2 – RVSM Information - Complete this section for administrative changes to an existing authorization, See RVSM Matrix, Group I, Attachment B to this document

2a. Explanation for LOA	☐ Change in Aircraft Registr	• /	t a different	,	
2b. Information on existing Authorization	Current LOA Designation Number	r	LOA three letter code	Fixed	CHDO ID
2c. RVSM Operational Policy and Procedures	have been thorou	ational policy and procedures ughly reviewed, and they con a and conform to the applicat	ntinue to me	et all red	quirements for
2d. Crew Training	` ' —	no changes to previously track pilot has an adequate kno	•	•	
2e. RVSM Height Monitoring	· · · ·	t-keeping performance for th The operator's aircraft fleet n	•		

## Section 3 – RVSM Information - New authorization based on one or more existing approved RVSM elements or a completely new authorization , See RVSM Matrix - Group II or Group III, Attachment B to this document

3a. Explanation for LOA	<ul> <li>□ LOA based on one or more existing approved RVSM authorization Group II)</li> <li>OR</li> <li>□ New LOA (Authorization Group III)</li> <li>Additional information:</li> </ul>	horization el	ement(s)				
3b. Existing Authorization (if applicable)	Previous LOA Designation Number (if applicable)	LOA three letter code	Fixed	С	HDC	) ID	)
,			J				
3c. RVSM Operational Policy and Procedures	(check one):	and they con d conform to	tinue to r	meet licant	tall t's	y th	e
	(check one): There have been no changes to previo personnel and each pilot has an adequ requirements, policies, and procedures	ate knowled	-	_	it cre	₩	
3d. Crew Training	OR						
	☐ Completed by: Date of	of Completic	n:				
	Copies of Training certificate (s) or other records attached	d.					
3e. Area(s) of Operation where Operator Initially intends to start RVSM Operations	☐ Domestic U.S. Only ☐ World Wide ☐ Other: (specify)						

3f. Minimum Equipment List	☐ (If applicable) or ☐	N/A	
(MEL)	FAA MMEL Revision:	Date:	
3g. RVSM Airworthiness	Date:	TCDS/SB/STC u	sed for RVSM Compliance: (see inst.sheet):
Date			
3h. Reserved			
3i. TCAS II (if equipped)	•	•	s. However, if TCAS II is installed it must eck Airspace Requirements for TCAS
Manufacturer	Model/Part N	umber	Version of Software installed
			Date of last monitoring:
	☐ RVSM Height Monito	oring is Complete	
3j. RVSM Height	OR		Number of flight hours since last monitoring
Monitoring	☐ Intend to complete w	vithin 6-months of	(if monitoring date exceeds 2-years):
_	authorization, if not pr	eviously monitored	Check here if operator's aircraft fleet
			meets group monitoring requirements.
	Record of completed he	eight monitoring attac	hed (including fleet requirements).

#### Instruction Guide RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) Information Sheet

#### **Table of contents**

- A. Overview
- B. Instructions in accordance with the RVSM Decision Matrix
- C. Explanation for individual items on the Information Sheet

#### A. Overview

1. Review the RVSM Decision Matrix. This document provides guidance on the three authorization groups I, II or III that assist operators and inspectors in determining the most efficient review process for the authorization application. FAA AC 91-85B, Authorization for Aircraft and Operators for Flight in Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) Airspace, Figure 4-1. (The RVSM Matrix is provided in Attachment B for convenience)

NOTE: Guidance has been created in order to allow for the most efficient processing of a RVSM authorization request without sacrificing operational safety. A safety inspector may rely on this guidance in issuing new or amended RVSM authorizations. Each Inspector retains the authority to conduct as much review and research with respect to any proposed RVSM-Compliant Aircraft, or RVSM-operational requirements as is warranted in order to ensure safety and regulatory compliance requirements have been met. Operators are required to ensure that all RVSM documentation is current even if not required to submit it for authorization.

Make initial contact with the FAA office to service your request, collect the required documentation in support of your request, and contact the FAA office for further submission instructions.

NOTE: It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that documentation satisfies the requirements for authorization. A statement by the operator detailing any changes made to previously approved programs will assist the inspector in determining the level of review necessary for approval. The operator should submit final and complete documents. It would be inappropriate for an operator to submit documentation containing specific information for a different operator.

#### B. Instructions in accordance with the RVSM Decision Matrix

- Section 1 Identifying Information This section supports is always all applications, complete this section with Section 2 or Section 3 as appropriate.
- Section 2 Complete this section for administrative changes to an existing authorization in accordance with the RVSM Decision Matrix Group I.
- Section 3 Complete this section for a new authorization based on one or more existing approved RVSM elements or a completely new authorization, RVSM Decision Matrix Group II or III.

#### Instruction Guide RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) Information Sheet

#### C. Guidance for Individual Items of the Information Sheet:

#### Section 1 - Always complete this Section with Section 2 or Section 3 as appropriate.

1a. Information Sheet or letter requesting Service.	Contact Information for the responsible FAA Safety Office that will issue the authorization. Determine the appropriate office for submission and complete as required.
Responsible Aviation Safety Office Information	Note: The Flight Standards office with a service area covering the operator's principal base of operations is responsible for issuance and oversight of all part 91 LOAs for the operator.
	The address of the part 91 operator's principal base of operations must be the physical address where the operator conducts business or resides. This is a physical location where the FAA can contact the operator. It may not be a post office box. While the principal base of operations may coincide with the place where the aircraft is located, this is not always the case.
	Domestic Principal Base of Operations. Operators should request LOA issuance from the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) with a service area that encompasses the operator's principal base of operations.
	International Principal Base of Operations. If an operator provides an address for its principal base of operations that is not in the United States, the operator must file an applications with the International Field Office (IFO) with geographic responsibility.
1b. Operator's Name	Clearly state the name of the operator. This should be the same for all Part 91 Authorizations assigned to the operator.
1c. N/A	
1d. Aircraft Manufacturer, Model, Registration and Serial	Supply the requested information for applicable aircraft copied from the aircraft's Standard Airworthiness Certificate. Supply the Mode S Code from the Registration Certificate.
Number	*All Applicants should provide a copy of the aircraft registration and airworthiness certificate for each aircraft.
	Note: If dealing with multiple aircraft attach a separate list as needed.
Aircraft Seating	Provide aircraft seating information. This is not an RVSM requirement but needed for the authorization template in WebOPSS.
1e. Aircraft Base of Operations	Submit the requested information for the Aircraft's Base of Operations.

#### Instruction Guide RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) Information Sheet

	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.8.1.1
1f. RVSM Point of Contact Information	<ul> <li>Be prepared to provide information for the designated responsible person and RVSM point of contact</li> <li>Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.7, 5.7.2</li> </ul>
1g. RVSM Responsible Person's information	The Responsible Person for flight operations is the person who has legal authority to sign the LOA on behalf of the operator. Such person should have ongoing knowledge of the operations of the aircraft. The Responsible Person may be the individual who acts as operator, or, if the operator is a legal entity, an officer, employee, or person duly designated to act on behalf of the operator. The person assumes responsibility for ensuring the operator complies with all applicable regulations, requirements, limitations, and provisions.

### Section 2. - RVSM Information - Complete this section for administrative changes to an existing authorization.

2a. Explanation for Request	Identify the reason for a change to an existing LOA.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.3, APP F
2b. Information on existing authorization	Provide the current LOA designation number. That code can be found on the bottom right footer on the existing LOA.
	Include a copy of the current LOA.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.6, 5.7
2c. RVSM Operational Policy and	Review the operator's operational policies and procedures that were previously accepted by the FAA. Ensure no changes are required.
Procedures	Ref: AC 91-85B chapter 3, paragraph 5.5.2, APP B, C, D
2d. Crew Training	Identify there have been no changes to the crew or crew training previously accepted by the FAA.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.5.2
2e. RVSM Height Monitoring	Ensure the Operator's aircraft or fleet of aircraft meet the RVSM minimum monitoring requirements for height-keeping performance. The MMR charts can be found on the FAA's RVSM Documentation Webpage in the section titled "Monitoring Requirements and Procedures". Note: If the operator's aircraft is equipped with a qualified ADS-B Out system, this methodology may be used to determine the aircraft's height-keeping performance to support RVSM minimum monitoring requirements even if operating under an LOA.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.8.6.3, APP E

#### Instruction Guide RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) Information Sheet

## Section 3. Complete this section for a new authorization or an authorization based an existing RVSM element.

3a. Explanation for Request	Identify if this is a request based on an existing RVSM Element, either an existing RVSM compliant aircraft or RVSM knowledgeable pilots.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.4, APP F
3b.Information on existing authorization	If applicable, and a previously existing RVSM LOA exists enter the information here, otherwise leave blank.
	Include a copy of the current LOA, if applicable.
3c. RVSM Operational Policy and	Identify if the operator will use operational policy and procedures previously accepted by the FAA;
Procedures	or
	new or revised operational policy and procedures are included in the application (If so attach copy).
	Ref: AC 91-85B chapter 3, paragraph 5.5.2, APP B, C, D
	FAA Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM), Chapter 4, Section 6
3d. Crew Training	Identify if there have been changes to the crew or crew training or if the operator will use training evidence previously accepted by the FAA.
	Provide 14 CFR part 142 training center certificates (further evaluation not required); or
	Certificates documenting completion of a course of instruction on RVSM Policy and Procedures; and/or an Operator's in house training program.
	Note: The FAA, at its discretion, may evaluate a training course prior to accepting a training certificate.
	Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.5.2
3e. Area(s) of Operation where Operator initially intends to start RVSM Operations	If starting RVSM operations in a new area of operation, specify here.

#### Instruction Guide RVSM Letter of Authorization (LOA) Information Sheet

If operating under a MEL supply copies of applicable data.
Ref: AC 91-85B paragraph 5.8.6.1
List the compliance date when the aircraft became RVSM compliant.  If the aircraft was manufactured RVSM compliant the date of the Airworthiness Certificate is usually the compliancy date.  If the aircraft was made RVSM compliant though a STC, Service Bulletin or a Service Letter, the RVSM compliant date will be found in the maintenance log book. Include copies of the maintenance record return to service entry and FAA form 337s if applicable.
List information requested if TCAS equipped.
If you have TCAS II installed, verify that it has version 7 software, or later. Identify the processor part number, model and software version.
Ref: FAA AC 91-85B, Appendix B.3.1.5
Submit evidence of RVSM height monitoring or a plan for monitoring as required.
<ul> <li>Monitoring via ADS-B Out (If properly equipped).         Note: Operators may utilize ADS B altitude-keeping performance monitoring even if operating with a specific authorization when properly equipped.     </li> <li>Copy of entry of successful height monitoring by an approved ground based system (e.g., US AGHME from the North American RVSM Approvals Data Base or a European HMU); or</li> <li>Report of a successful monitoring supplied by an FAA approved GPS-based provider; or</li> <li>Evidence provided by another ICAO sponsored RMA such as Eurocontrol.</li> <li>If the aircraft meets monitoring requirements through an Operator's fleet group monitoring requirements submit evidence of all relevant height monitoring.</li> <li>RVSM Minimum Monitoring Requirements Chart, FAA RVSM Documentation webpage – Height Monitoring Section</li> </ul>

RVSM Decision Matrix from Appendix F, AC 91-85B

#### **RVSM DECISION MATRIX**

#### **AUTHORIZATION GROUP I:**

#### **RVSM AUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS**

- The following changes are considered to be administrative in nature only.
- This Group *only* applies in circumstances where a previously authorized RVSM operator and each of the previously accepted RVSM Authorization Elements *are remaining the same*.

#### I. A. Examples of Requested Action/Nature of Change

- 1. Change in the primary business address of an RVSM-Compliant Aircraft and/or RVSM authorization holder.
- 2. Change in an existing RVSM operator's designated Responsible Person (or RVSM-Authorized Representative or RVSM-Point of Contact (POC)).
- Change in the registration markings of an RVSM-Compliant Aircraft being operated by an existing RVSM authorization holder.
- 4. Removal of wording describing use of an RVSM-Approved Maintenance Program for operators otherwise not having a requirement for an approved maintenance program.
- 5. Removal of an RVSM-Compliant Aircraft from an existing RVSM authorization that has multiple RVSM-Compliant Aircraft listed.

#### I. B. Applicable Steps and Information Required From RVSM Authorization Holder

- 1. Prior to making a request for service for an authorization amendment, each existing authorization holder should make a positive determination as to which portions of the previously accepted RVSM Authorization Elements the authorization holder is requesting to change.
- 2. That authorization holder should then submit a written request to the appropriate Flight Standards office that:
  - a. States which of the applicable administrative changes are occurring;
  - Further affirmatively states that none of the previously accepted RVSM Authorization Elements that formed the basis for the initial issuance of the affected RVSM authorization have changed or are changing; and
  - c. Requests the issuance of an amendment to the existing RVSM authorization that acknowledges the administrative change being made.
- 3. If the nature of the requested amendment is to change the primary business address or the base of operation from one service area to another, he or she must notify, in writing, the losing (previously responsible) FAA office of the new physical location and mailing address within 30 calendar-days following relocation. The losing office must request that the Web-based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS) Help Desk move the operator's database to the appropriate receiving FAA office. The losing office must also notify the receiving office of the change. The receiving office should then update and reissue the operator's A001 template to reflect the new address, and the receiving office becomes the appropriate Flight Standards office for processing new letters of authorization (LOA) for that operator.
- 4. The authorization holder should also provide such further information as requested by the FAA to efficiently process the request.

# C. Applicable Procedures to Be Followed by the Appropriate Flight Standards Office Review the request and supporting documentation received from the RVSM authorization applicant to determine if it appears that an amended RVSM authorization is warranted. Reissue the amended RVSM authorization that is identical to the initial RVSM authorization in all respects other than reflecting the new amended information. If the nature of the requested amendment is to change the primary business address or base of operation from one service area to another, see the additional applicable guidance in FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 2, Section 2, Responsibility for Part 91 Letters of Authorization (LOA). If an existing RVSM authorization holder has made a written affirmation that none of the underlying previously accepted RVSM Authorization Elements have changed or will change, and there is no other information provided to the FAA raising any questions or concerns with respect to the ongoing validity or applicability of those RVSM Authorization Elements, then, subject to paragraph 5.3.4 of this AC, the appropriate Flight Standards office should issue the requested amendment without further inspections being required.

#### **AUTHORIZATION GROUP II:**

#### RVSM AUTHORIZATION BASED ON ONE OR MORE EXISTING APPROVED RVSM AUTHORIZATION ELEMENTS

- The following RVSM authorizations are new authorizations.
- This Group will normally apply to a new or proposed RVSM operator that is seeking the issuance of an RVSM
  authorization for an aircraft that is already an RVSM-Compliant Aircraft and/or previously accepted RVSMKnowledgeable Pilots requirements with respect to its operations of that specific aircraft.

#### II. A. Examples of Requested Action/Nature of Change

- 1. There is a change in the legal status or identity of the business entity that is the Approved RVSM operator, but the Responsible Person, RVSM-Authorized Representative, and/or RVSM-POC and each of the Approved RVSM Authorization Elements are remaining the same.
  - a. One example of this situation may occur where an operator is converted from
     an S corporation to a limited liability company under applicable state law, but no other changes are occurring.
  - b. Another example may occur where the ownership and operation of an aircraft is transferred from one company to a legal affiliate, but there are no other changes occurring.
- 2. A new proposed RVSM operator will be using an existing RVSM-Compliant Aircraft and/or previously accepted RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements. Examples of this type of situation may include:
  - a. An operator takes delivery of a newly manufactured aircraft that is type-certified as RVSM-compliant.
  - b. An Approved RVSM Aircraft is being operated under an RVSM authorization issued to a Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 135 air carrier, and the underlying owner or a separate lessee will occasionally use that specific aircraft and/or the same RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements.
  - c. A group of underlying owners or lessees use an RVSM-Compliant Aircraft, each maintaining their own operational control of that aircraft pursuant to a dry lease and/or the same RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements.
- 3. An existing or newly proposed Approved RVSM operator seeks an RVSM authorization and will be utilizing one or more existing Approved RVSM Authorization Elements.
  - a. An example may be where an existing RVSM operator seeks to add a new proposed RVSM-Compliant Aircraft to an existing RVSM authorization where that operator will continue to use previously accepted RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements.

	B. Applicable Steps and Information Required From RVSM Authorization Applicant
	Make a positive determination that the existing or newly proposed RVSM operator is seeking an RVSM authorization that will utilize at least one previously Approved RVSM Authorization Element (i.e., an existing RVSM-Compliant Aircraft and/or
	RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements).
	2. Submit a written request to the appropriate Flight Standards office that:
	a. Provides complete documentation of an RVSM compliance program, including written information evidencing that the specific aircraft meets the requirements of an
	RVSM-Compliant Aircraft;
	b. Further specifically states that previously accepted RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements will be used with respect to the operation of the proposed Approved RVSM Aircraft in RVSM airspace, as applicable;
	<ul> <li>Provides such additional information as necessary to evidence compliance with new or different RVSM-Knowledgeable Pilots requirements (or to be able to gain such approvals); and</li> </ul>
	${ m d.}$ Asks for the issuance of an RVSM authorization that applies to the operation of the aircraft by that proposed RVSM operator.
	3. Provide such further information requested by the FAA to efficiently process the request.
II.	C. Applicable Procedures to Be Followed by the Appropriate Flight Standards Office
	Review the request and supporting documentation received from the RVSM authorization applicant to determine if it appears that the requested RVSM authorization is warranted.

#### **AUTHORIZATION GROUP III:**

#### RVSM AUTHORIZATION NOT BASED ONONE OR MORE EXISTING RVSM AUTHORIZATION ELEMENTS

In the event a proposed new or existing approved RVSM operator seeks the issuance of an RVSM authorization that will not be based on any existing RVSM Authorization Element, then neither Authorization Group I nor II above will apply. The proposed approved RVSM operator should submit sufficient evidence to show his or her ability to comply with each of the RVSM Authorization Elements, and the appropriate Flight Standards office should process the request as a new and unique request by reviewing all of the materials provided by the applicant to ensure that each of the RVSM Authorization Elements have been met.