

1 **DIVISION V—AIRCRAFT CERTIFI-**
2 **CATION, SAFETY, AND AC-**
3 **COUNTABILITY**

4 **TITLE I—AIRCRAFT CERTIFI-**
5 **CATION, SAFETY, AND AC-**
6 **COUNTABILITY**

7 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

8 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This title may be cited as the
9 “Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act”.

10 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
11 this title is as follows:

TITLE I—AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION, SAFETY, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

- Sec. 101. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 102. Safety management systems.
- Sec. 103. Expert review of organization designation authorizations for transport airplanes.
- Sec. 104. Certification oversight staff.
- Sec. 105. Disclosure of safety critical information.
- Sec. 106. Limitation on delegation.
- Sec. 107. Oversight of organization designation authorization unit members.
- Sec. 108. Integrated project teams.
- Sec. 109. Oversight integrity briefing.
- Sec. 110. Appeals of certification decisions.
- Sec. 111. Employment restrictions.
- Sec. 112. Professional development, skills enhancement, continuing education and training.
- Sec. 113. Voluntary safety reporting program.
- Sec. 114. Compensation limitation.
- Sec. 115. System safety assessments and other requirements.
- Sec. 116. Flight crew alerting.
- Sec. 117. Changed product rule.
- Sec. 118. Whistleblower protections.
- Sec. 119. Domestic and international pilot training.
- Sec. 120. Nonconformity with approved type design.
- Sec. 121. Implementation of recommendations.
- Sec. 122. Oversight of FAA compliance program.
- Sec. 123. Settlement agreement.
- Sec. 124. Human factors education program.
- Sec. 125. Best practices for organization designation authorizations.
- Sec. 126. Human factors research.

- Sec. 127. FAA Center of Excellence for automated systems and human factors in aircraft.
- Sec. 128. Pilot operational evaluations.
- Sec. 129. Ensuring appropriate responsibility of aircraft certification and flight standards performance objectives and metrics.
- Sec. 130. Transport airplane risk assessment methodology.
- Sec. 131. National air grant fellowship program.
- Sec. 132. Emerging safety trends in aviation.
- Sec. 133. FAA accountability enhancement.
- Sec. 134. Authorization of appropriations for the advanced materials center of excellence.
- Sec. 135. Promoting Aviation Regulations for Technical Training.
- Sec. 136. Independent study on type certification reform.
- Sec. 137. Definitions.

1 **SEC. 102. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**

2 (a) RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
4 the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator
5 shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to require that
6 manufacturers that hold both a type certificate and
7 a production certificate issued pursuant to section
8 44704 of title 49, United States Code, where the
9 United States is the State of Design and State of
10 Manufacture, have in place a safety management
11 system that is consistent with the standards and rec-
12 ommended practices established by ICAO and con-
13 tained in annex 19 to the Convention on Inter-
14 national Civil Aviation (61 Stat. 1180), for such sys-
15 tems.

16 (2) CONTENTS OF REGULATIONS.—The regula-
17 tions issued under paragraph (1) shall, at a min-
18 imum—

1 **SEC. 134. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
2 **ADVANCED MATERIALS CENTER OF EXCEL-**
3 **LENCE.**

4 Section 44518 of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of
7 amounts appropriated under section 48102(a), the Admin-
8 istrator may expend not more than \$10,000,000 for each
9 of fiscal years 2021 through 2023 to carry out this sec-
10 tion. Amounts appropriated under the preceding sentence
11 for each fiscal year shall remain available until ex-
12 pended.”.

13 **SEC. 135. PROMOTING AVIATION REGULATIONS FOR TECH-**
14 **NICAL TRAINING.**

15 (a) NEW REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—

16 (1) INTERIM FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later
17 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this sec-
18 tion, the Administrator shall issue interim final reg-
19 ulations to establish requirements for issuing avia-
20 tion maintenance technician school certificates and
21 associated ratings and the general operating rules
22 for the holders of those certificates and ratings in
23 accordance with the requirements of this section.

24 (2) REPEAL OF CURRENT REGULATIONS.—

25 Upon the effective date of the interim final regula-
26 tions required under paragraph (1), part 147 of title

1 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
2 date of enactment of this title) and any regulations
3 issued under section 624 of the FAA Reauthoriza-
4 tion Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) shall have
5 no force or effect on or after the effective date of
6 such interim final regulations.

7 (b) AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN SCHOOL
8 CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—No person may operate an
9 aviation maintenance technician school without, or in vio-
10 lation of, an aviation maintenance technician school cer-
11 tificate and the operations specifications issued under the
12 interim final regulations required under subsection (a)(1),
13 the requirements of this section, or in a manner that is
14 inconsistent with information in the school’s operations
15 specifications under subsection (c)(5).

16 (c) CERTIFICATE AND OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS
17 REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—An application for a
20 certificate or rating to operate an aviation
21 maintenance technician school shall include the
22 following:

23 (i) A description of the facilities, in-
24 cluding the physical address of the certifi-
25 cate holder’s primary location for operation

1 of the school, any additional fixed locations
2 where training will be provided, and the
3 equipment and materials to be used at
4 each location.

5 (ii) A description of the manner in
6 which the school's curriculum will ensure
7 the student has the knowledge and skills
8 necessary for attaining a mechanic certifi-
9 cate and associated ratings under subpart
10 D of part 65 of title 14, Code of Federal
11 Regulations (or any successor regulation).

12 (iii) A description of the manner in
13 which the school will ensure it provides the
14 necessary qualified instructors to meet the
15 requirements of subsection (d)(4).

16 (B) DOCUMENTED IN THE SCHOOL'S OP-
17 ERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS.—Upon issuance of
18 the school's certificate or rating, the informa-
19 tion required under subparagraph (A) shall be
20 documented in the school's operations specifica-
21 tions.

22 (2) CHANGE APPLICATIONS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—An application for an
24 additional rating or amended certificate shall
25 include only the information necessary to sub-

1 stantiate the reason for the requested additional
2 rating or change.

3 (B) APPROVED CHANGES.—Any approved
4 changes shall be documented in the school’s op-
5 erations specifications.

6 (3) DURATION.—An aviation maintenance tech-
7 nician school certificate or rating issued under the
8 interim final regulations required under subsection
9 (a)(1) shall be effective from the date of issue until
10 the certificate or rating is surrendered, suspended,
11 or revoked.

12 (4) CERTIFICATE RATINGS.—An aviation main-
13 tenance technician school certificate issued under the
14 interim final regulations required under subsection
15 (a)(1) shall specify which of the following ratings are
16 held by the aviation maintenance technician school:

17 (A) Airframe.

18 (B) Powerplant.

19 (C) Airframe and Powerplant.

20 (5) OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS.—A certifi-
21 cated aviation maintenance technician school shall
22 operate in accordance with operations specifications
23 that include the following:

24 (A) The certificate holder’s name.

1 (B) The certificate holder's air agency cer-
2 tificate number.

3 (C) The name and contact information of
4 the certificate holder's primary point of contact.

5 (D) The physical address of the certificate
6 holder's primary location, as provided under
7 paragraph (1)(A).

8 (E) The physical address of any additional
9 location of the certificate holder, as provided
10 under subsection (d)(2).

11 (F) The ratings held, as provided under
12 paragraph (4).

13 (G) Any regulatory exemption granted to
14 the school by the Administrator.

15 (d) OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS.—

16 (1) FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIAL
17 REQUIREMENTS.—Each certificated aviation mainte-
18 nance technician school shall provide and maintain
19 the facilities, equipment, and materials that are ap-
20 propriate to the 1 or more ratings held by the school
21 and the number of students taught.

22 (2) TRAINING PROVIDED AT ANOTHER LOCA-
23 TION.—A certificated aviation maintenance techni-
24 cian school may provide training at any additional
25 location that meets the requirements of the interim

1 final regulations required under subsection (a)(1)
2 and is listed in the certificate holder's operations
3 specifications.

4 (3) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Each certifi-
5 cated aviation maintenance technician school shall—

6 (A) establish, maintain, and utilize a cur-
7 riculum designed to continually align with me-
8 chanic **airman certification standards** as appro-
9 priate for the ratings held;

10 (B) provide training of a quality that
11 meets the requirements of subsection (f)(1);
12 and

13 (C) ensure students have the knowledge
14 and skills necessary to be eligible to test for a
15 mechanic certificate and associated ratings
16 under subpart D of part 65 of title 14, Code of
17 Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
18 tion).

19 (4) INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS.—Each cer-
20 tificated aviation maintenance technician school
21 shall—

22 (A) provide qualified instructors to teach
23 in a manner that ensures positive educational
24 outcomes are achieved;

1 (B) ensure instructors hold a mechanic
2 certificate with 1 or more appropriate ratings
3 (or, with respect to instructors who are not cer-
4 tified mechanics, ensure instructors are other-
5 wise specifically qualified to teach their as-
6 signed content); and

7 (C) ensure the student-to-instructor ratio
8 does not exceed 25:1 for any shop class.

9 (5) CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.—Each cer-
10 tified aviation maintenance technician school shall
11 provide authenticated documentation to each grad-
12 uating student, indicating the student’s date of
13 graduation and curriculum completed, as described
14 in paragraph (3)(A).

15 (e) QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM.—

16 (1) ACCREDITATION.—Each aviation mainte-
17 nance technician school shall—

18 (A) be accredited as meeting the definition
19 of an institution of higher education provided
20 for in section 101 of the Higher Education Act
21 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); or

22 (B) establish and maintain a quality con-
23 trol system that meets the requirements speci-
24 fied in paragraph (2) and is approved by the
25 Administrator.

1 (2) FAA-APPROVED SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—

2 In the case of an aviation maintenance technician
3 school that is not accredited as set forth in para-
4 graph (1), the Administrator shall approve a quality
5 control system that provides procedures for record-
6 keeping, assessment, issuing credit, issuing of final
7 course grades, attendance, ensuring sufficient num-
8 ber of instructors, granting of graduation docu-
9 mentation, and corrective action for addressing defi-
10 ciencies.

11 (f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

12 (1) MINIMUM PASSAGE RATE.—A certificated
13 aviation maintenance technician school shall main-
14 tain a pass rate of at least 70 percent of students
15 who took a written, oral, or practical (or any com-
16 bination thereof) FAA mechanic tests within 60 days
17 of graduation for the most recent 3-year period .

18 (2) FAA INSPECTION.—A certificated aviation
19 maintenance technician school shall allow the Ad-
20 ministrator such access as the Administrator deter-
21 mines necessary to inspect the 1 or more locations
22 of the school for purposes of determining the
23 school's compliance with the interim final regula-
24 tions required under subsection (a)(1), the proce-
25 dures and information outlined in the school's oper-

1 ations specifications according to subsection (c)(5),
2 and the aviation maintenance technician school cer-
3 tificate issued for the school.

4 (3) **DISPLAY OF CERTIFICATE.**—A certificated
5 aviation maintenance technician school shall display
6 its aviation maintenance technician school certificate
7 at a location in the school that is visible by and nor-
8 mally accessible to the public.

9 (4) **EARLY TESTING.**—A certificated aviation
10 maintenance technician school may issue authenti-
11 cated documentation demonstrating a student’s sat-
12 isfactory progress, completion of corresponding por-
13 tions of the curriculum, and preparedness to take
14 the aviation mechanic written general knowledge
15 test, even if the student has not met the experience
16 requirements of section 65.77 of title 14, Code of
17 Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).
18 Any such documentation shall specify the curriculum
19 the student completed and the completion date.

20 **SEC. 136. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON TYPE CERTIFICATION**
21 **REFORM.**

22 (a) **REPORT AND DEADLINES.**—Not later than 30
23 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Adminis-
24 trator shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate
25 Federally-funded research and development center to re-

1 and the FAA rationale for not taking action on any spe-
2 cific recommendation

3 **SEC. 137. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATION; FAA.—The terms “Ad-
6 ministration” and “FAA” mean the Federal Avia-
7 tion Administration.

8 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
9 trator” means the Administrator of the FAA.

10 (3) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF JURISDIC-
11 TION.—The term “congressional committees of juris-
12 diction” means the Committee on Transportation
13 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
14 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
15 Transportation of the Senate.

16 (4) ICAO.—The term “ICAO” means the
17 International Civil Aviation Organization.

18 (5) ORGANIZATION DESIGNATION AUTHORIZA-
19 TION.—The term “organization designation author-
20 ization” has the same meaning given such term in
21 section 44736(c) of title 49, United States Code.

22 (6) TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.—The term “trans-
23 port airplane” means a transport category airplane
24 designed for operation by an air carrier or foreign
25 air carrier type-certificated with a passenger seating

1 capacity of 30 or more or an all-cargo or combi de-
2 rivative of such an airplane.

3 (7) TYPE CERTIFICATE.—The term “type cer-
4 tificate”—

5 (A) means a type certificate issued pursu-
6 ant to section 44704(a) of title 49, United
7 States Code, or an amendment to such certifi-
8 cate; and

9 (B) does not include a supplemental type
10 certificate issued under section 44704(b) of
11 such section.