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SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 62-6

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This Air Force Policy Directive implements Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5030.61, *DoD Airworthiness Policy*. It defines how the Air Force ensures airworthiness is established and maintained throughout the life cycle of air systems. It applies to all military and civilian Air Force personnel including major commands, direct reporting units and field operating agencies, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard and to other individuals or organizations as required by binding agreement or obligation with the Department of the Air Force. This Air Force Policy Directive cannot be supplemented.

Send all recommendations for changes or comments to Engineering Management Division, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Science, Technology and Engineering) (SAF/AQRE) workflow (usaf.pentagon.saf-aq.mbx.saf-aqre-workflow@mail.mil) or 1060 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1060, through appropriate channels using AF FORM 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been substantially revised and should be completely reviewed. It clarifies policy applicability, and aligns Air Force airworthiness policy with DoDD 5030.61 including

roles, responsibilities, and authorities for the Air Force Airworthiness Authority and the Air Force Technical Airworthiness Authority.

1. Overview.

1.1. Airworthiness, as defined in DoDD 5030.61, is the property of an air system configuration to safely attain, sustain, and complete flight in accordance with approved usage limits. Air Force airworthiness is intended to provide Air Force personnel (to include Service members and civilians) and Air Force contractors the appropriate level of safety of flight and risk management adapted to DoD-unique mission requirements. Air Force airworthiness activities encompass the entire lifecycle management of Air Force owned or contracted air systems, to include design, production, operation, and maintenance.

1.1.1. Design. To ensure airworthy designs, the Air Force independently assesses air systems in accordance with airworthiness criteria appropriate for the air system type and intended use. The Air Force, when appropriate, issues airworthiness approvals governing the design and associated technical data.

1.1.2. Production. The Air Force ensures manufacturers evaluate and control their production processes in order to reliably produce each individual Air Force air system in accordance with its approved design.

1.1.3. Operation. The Air Force ensures air systems are operated in accordance with the approved design and associated technical data.

1.1.4. Maintenance. The Air Force ensures air systems are maintained in accordance with the approved design and associated technical data.

2. Policy.

2.1. Air Force airworthiness policy applies to all manned and unmanned air systems that the Air Force owns, leases, operates, uses, designs, or modifies. This includes, but is not limited to:

2.1.1. New air systems.

2.1.2. Modifications (any permanent or temporary change to the form, fit, function, or interface of in-service Air Force hardware or software configuration item) to air systems with previously issued Air Force airworthiness approvals.

2.1.3. Foreign-owned aircraft in which Air Force military, civilians, and contractors fly as aircrew or passengers.

2.1.4. Civil air systems, when products or services involving their operation are being procured by the Air Force.

2.1.5. Air Force Security Cooperation and Security Assistance programs.

2.2. The Air Force shall:

2.2.1. Maintain an Airworthiness Authority to oversee Air Force airworthiness.

2.2.2. Maintain a Technical Airworthiness Authority, who is sufficiently independent of acquisition program and operational influence, to implement, manage and control the design airworthiness element of Air Force airworthiness.

2.2.3. Design and/or modify air systems to comply with airworthiness criteria appropriate for the air system type and intended use (when applicable, using Military Handbook-516, *Airworthiness Certification Criteria*).

2.2.4. Conduct independent airworthiness assessments to evaluate air system configurations, utilizing airworthiness criteria appropriate for the air system type and intended use (when applicable, using Military Handbook-516), and define operating limitations and other operating information necessary to ensure appropriately safe air systems.

2.2.4.1. Assess airworthiness risks in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction-5000.02, *Operation of the Defense Acquisition System*, and Military Standard-882E, *Department of Defense Standard Practice – System Safety*. The risks shall be documented and accepted by appropriate risk acceptance authorities.

2.2.4.2. Leverage, as appropriate, airworthiness approvals issued by the Federal Aviation Administration and other Military Department airworthiness authorities as a basis for Air Force approval.

2.2.5. Ensure that all air systems the Air Force owns, leases, operates, uses, designs, or modifies have a Technical Airworthiness Authority-issued airworthiness approval, when appropriate, prior to flight. Airworthiness approval, as defined in DoDD 5030.61, affirms that the appropriate tenets of the airworthiness process are met and that the air system was assessed against the required airworthiness standards and any risks to aircrew, ground crew, passengers, or to third parties have been accepted by the appropriate authorities.

2.2.6. Ensure each air system configuration is produced, operated, and maintained in accordance with the design and associated technical data identified in the airworthiness approval.

2.2.7. Obtain and maintain Federal Aviation Administration type certification for civil aircraft acquired or modified by the Air Force if the primary mission for the aircraft is the transport of passengers. For all other civil aircraft acquired or modified by the Air Force, the Air Force shall obtain and maintain Federal Aviation Administration type certification to the maximum extent practical. Civil aircraft acquired or modified by the military are commonly referred to as “commercial derivative aircraft.”

3. Responsibilities.

3.1. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SAF/AQ):

3.1.1. Is responsible for Air Force-level airworthiness policy and instruction.

3.1.2. Ensures airworthiness requirements are included in acquisition and sustainment policy, including those addressing joint programs.

3.1.3. Through air system program managers (as defined in AFPD 63-1/20-1, *Integrated Life Cycle Management*):

3.1.3.1. Ensure air systems are designed and/or modified in compliance with airworthiness criteria appropriate for the air system type and intended use.

- 3.1.3.2. Obtain Technical Airworthiness Authority-issued airworthiness approvals for managed air systems.
- 3.1.3.3. Ensure managed air systems conform to the design and associated technical data approved by the Technical Airworthiness Authority.
- 3.2. Air Force Airworthiness Authority, Commander, AF Materiel Command (AFMC/CC):
 - 3.2.1. Develops and oversees compliance with Air Force-level airworthiness policy.
 - 3.2.2. Resolves inconsistencies in Air Force airworthiness-related policies.
 - 3.2.3. Adjudicates issues across stakeholders.
 - 3.2.4. Advises Major Command Commanders, Combatant Commanders, and the Service Acquisition Executive, as necessary, on air system grounding matters.
 - 3.2.5. Provides command-level support and resource allocation to enable airworthiness policy implementation.
- 3.3. Air Force Technical Airworthiness Authority, Director of Engineering and Technical Management/Services, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC/EN-EZ):
 - 3.3.1. Serves as the technical authority in accordance with DoDD 5030.61
 - 3.3.2. Manages the management and control organization in accordance with DoDD 5030.61
 - 3.3.3. Advises the Air Force Airworthiness Authority on airworthiness matters.
 - 3.3.4. Serves as the Air Force Airworthiness Authority's Subject Matter Expert to develop Air Force level airworthiness policy.
 - 3.3.5. Organizes, trains and equips engineering workforce to provide expertise and direction to design and independently assess air systems.
 - 3.3.6. Conducts independent airworthiness assessments, identifies airworthiness risks, and, when appropriate, issues airworthiness approvals.
 - 3.3.7. Leads or participates in airworthiness system assessments of other Airworthiness Authorities.
- 3.4. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (AF/A3) ensures operational policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.
- 3.5. Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations Engineering and Force Protection (AF/A4) ensures maintenance and logistics policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.
- 3.6. Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Programs (AF/A5/8) ensures that requirements policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.
- 3.7. Chief of Safety (AF/SE):
 - 3.7.1. Ensures safety policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.

- 3.7.2. Collects airworthiness-related flight safety information and makes it available to organizations consistent with safety privilege guidelines.
- 3.8. Director, Air Force Test and Evaluation (AF/TE) ensures test policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.
- 3.9. Major Command Commanders, and Director, Air National Guard:
- 3.9.1. Ensure Major Command and Air National Guard policy and implementing direction are consistent with the Air Force airworthiness policy and instruction.
- 3.9.2. Operate, or use, only those air systems (including, but not limited to, leased or contracted air systems) having a valid airworthiness approval.
- 3.9.3. Operate, or use, only those air systems (including, but not limited to, leased or contracted air systems) with qualified aircrew and maintenance personnel in accordance with approved technical data.
- 3.9.4. Ensure modifications of assigned air systems are authorized by the Program Manager.
- 3.9.5. Issue statements of operating intent that define the planned operating environment and mission usage for each Mission-Design-Series. Notify the Program Manager of proposed or planned changes.
- 3.9.6. Obtain an airworthiness assessment prior to DoD passenger or crew flight in foreign owned military aircraft.

HEATHER WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

Department of Defense Directive 5030.61, *DoD Airworthiness Policy*, 24 August 2017

Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

Military-Handbook-516, *Airworthiness Certification Criteria*, 12 December 2014

Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02, *Operation of the Defense Acquisition System*, 10 August 2017

Military-Standard-882E, *Department of Defense Standard Practice – System Safety*, 11 May 2012

AFPD 63-1/20-1, *Integrated Life Cycle Management*, 7 August 2018

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

DoD—Department of Defense

DoDD—Department of Defense Directive

Terms

Airworthiness—The property of an air system configuration to safely attain, sustain, and complete flight in accordance with approved usage limits.

Airworthiness Approval—Documents issued by an empowered airworthiness authority and may take a number of different forms (e.g., airworthiness release, military-type certificate, flight clearance) depending on specific airworthiness authority policy. An airworthiness approval affirms that the appropriate tenets of the airworthiness process are met and that the aircraft or air system was assessed against the required airworthiness standards and any residual risk to aircrew, ground crew, passengers, or to third parties has been accepted by the appropriate authority.

Air system—An air vehicle plus the training and support systems for the air vehicle (e.g., communications, control, ground/surface/control station, launch and recovery, and support elements), and any weapons to be employed on the air vehicle. For example, an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) is an air system. An air vehicle, manned or unmanned, is a subset of its associated air system. (Military Handbook-516)

Passenger—An individual (to include Service members, DoD civilians, and contractors) onboard the aircraft who is not on the flight authorization.