



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS CENTER (AFMC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO

BULLETIN
AWB-018A
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United States Air Force (USAF) Airworthiness Bulletin (AWB)-018A

Subject: Military Certificate of Airworthiness (MCA)

Attachments: (1) Glossary of References and Supporting Information
(2) Certificate Template


- 1. Purpose:** This bulletin establishes the requirements and provides the template for issuance of a Military Certificate of Airworthiness (MCA), the document issued to each individual aircraft that provides evidence of compliance with its approved Military Type Certificate (MTC), Supplemental Military Type Certificate(s) (SMTC), legacy airworthiness certificate, and Delegated Technical Authority (DTA) issued (i.e., non-reportable) flight release(s) of its configuration relative to safe operation. This updated bulletin supersedes and replaces the prior issued bulletin in its entirety.
- 2. Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR):** USAF Airworthiness Office (ASC/EN) is the OPR. Comments, suggestions, or questions on this bulletin should be emailed to the USAF Airworthiness Office (ASC.ENSI.Mailbox@wpafb.af.mil).
- 3. Issuance of MCA:** Air Force Instruction (AFI) 62-601, *USAF Airworthiness*, allows the Technical Airworthiness Authority (TAA), coincident with issuance of the MTC for type designs, to authorize Program Managers (PM) to issue MCAs to individual aircraft when compliance with the approved certification basis has been shown. The TAA may rescind or restrict the PM's authority in this regard if issues with the MTC warrant such action.

AWB-015A supplemented AFI 62-601 by introducing TAA-issued SMTCs for air system reportable modifications with a previously issued MTC or legacy airworthiness certificates issued by the PM. Coincident with issuance of an SMTC for a change in the type design, the TAA may authorize PMs to issue MCAs when compliance with the approved certification basis has been shown. The TAA may rescind or restrict the PM's authority in this regard if issues with the SMTC or Delegated Technical Authority (DTA)-issued flight release(s) warrant such action.

MCAs are issued by the PM for individual aircraft in the type design covered by the approved MTC, SMTC, or legacy airworthiness certificate when the delivered aircraft complies with these documents, and is compliant with the program's product acceptance process. The MCA remains in effect up to the service life limit (SLL) as long as the air system configuration is in a condition for safe operation (i.e., properly maintained in

accordance with approved maintenance documentation, and the system is operated in accordance with the approved flight manual and within the approved mission usage), and the MTC, SMTCs, legacy airworthiness certificate, or DTA-issued flight release have not been revoked.

4. **Service Life:** PMs shall include the approved SLL expressed in equivalent flight hours, cycles, or other appropriate service life measure in MCAs issued for individual aircraft within a type design, and shall provide a copy to the Major Commands (MAJCOMs) for fleet management.
5. **Template:** Attachment 2 illustrates the format for the MCA certificate. The actual template is an editable Microsoft Word document that can be found on the USAF Airworthiness SharePoint website (see Attachment 1).



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Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

DoDI 5000.02, *Operation of the Defense Acquisition System*

AFI 62-601, *USAF Airworthiness*

AWB-015A, *Military Type Certificate and Supplemental Military Type Certificate*

USAF Airworthiness SharePoint website;

<https://cs.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/AeroEngDisciplines/Systems/Airworthiness/default.aspx>

Abbreviations and Acronyms

DTA – Delegated Technical Authority

MAJCOM – Major Command

MCA – Military Certificate of Airworthiness

MDA – Milestone Decision Authority

MTC – Military Type Certificate

PM – Program Manager

SLL – Service Life Limit

SMTC – Supplemental Military Type Certificate

TAA – Technical Airworthiness Authority

Terms

Delegated Technical Authority (DTA)— Senior engineers in leadership positions who meet criteria established by the TAA and are authorized to exercise delegated airworthiness authorities.

Military Type Certificate (MTC)—The TAA issued document which provides evidence that the aircraft system type design is in full compliance with its approved certification basis.

Military Certificate of Airworthiness (MCA)—The document issued by a PM to each individual aircraft that provides evidence of compliance with its approved MTC and its condition relative to safe operation.

Service Life Limit (SLL) – The maximum permissible period of aircraft operational service expressed in units of time and/or operating hours/cycles. The approved SLL shall be documented in MFRs and MCAs. Extensions to the SLL are considered reportable modifications for the purpose of airworthiness.

Supplemental Military Type Certificate (SMTC) — The TAA issued document which provides evidence that the change in the air system type design is in full compliance with its approved certification basis.

Attachment 2
CERTIFICATE TEMPLATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE – UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MILITARY CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS		
1. SERIAL/TAIL NUMBER Number	2. MANUFACTURER//MDS MDS	3. MTC/SMTC NUMBER(S) Number
Click here to enter text.		
4. AUTHORITY AND BASIS OF ISSUE		
<p>This airworthiness certificate is issued pursuant to United States Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 62-6 and certifies that, as of the date of issuance, the aircraft to which it is issued conforms to the approved type design cited in Block 3, and is in a condition for safe operation. The service life limit of this aircraft is [limit].</p>		
5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS		
<p>This airworthiness certificate is effective as long as the technical data is current with regard to configuration, maintenance, preventive maintenance, and modifications are performed in accordance with approved maintenance manuals, Air Force Policy Directives and Instructions, the aircraft is operated in accordance with the approved pilot's flight manual, and the service life limit has not been exceeded. The approving official has the authority to rescind this certificate when any of the above conditions are not met.</p>		
6 ISSUE DATE Date	7. APPROVING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE Name Title	8. OFFICE SYMBOL Office Symbol

MCA TEMPLATE, 2011MMDD

Instructions for completing this form:

- Block 1 Tail number or Air Force serial number of the aircraft. If this is a fleet certificate, list the applicable tail numbers, e.g., “90-01 through 93-12”.
- Block 2 Airframe prime contractor and the designated Mission Design Series (MDS).
- Block 3 The number of the Military Type Certificate, all applicable Supplemental Military Type Certificate(s) for the approved type design and/or change(s) to the type design. Insert date of issuance of legacy USAF Airworthiness Certificate, Delegated Technical Authority-issued flight release, or other appropriate legacy certification (e.g., FAA, other Service, etc.) when the PM is issued an MTC or SMTC for a legacy aircraft system.
- Block 4 Enter the service life limit (SLL) (equivalent flight hours, cycles, or other appropriate service life measure).
- Block 5 No entry required.
- Block 6 Issue date: the date of the approving official’s signature. This is the starting date for which the certificate is valid.
- Block 7 Signature, name and title of the approving official, designated by the Technical Airworthiness Authority (TAA) when the MTC is issued in accordance with AFI 62-601 (or SMTC as supplemented by TAA). Normally this will be the Program Manager (PM) or equivalent.
- Block 8 Office symbol of the approving official.