



AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE & MANUFACTURING STAFF INSTRUCTION

Subject:		Number:	MSI 2008-11-26
	Inspection and Flight Certification of Imported Amateur-built Aircraft	Revision No:	0
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this instruction is to establish the process with respect to the inspection and issuance of a special certificate of airworthiness – amateur-built in respect of an imported amateur-built aircraft.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 2 February 2005, the Director General, Civil Aviation, signed a ministerial exemption [the “amateur-built” exemption] from the requirements of subsection 507.03(b) and section 549.01 of the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (CARs), subsection 507.03(4) of Standard 507 of the *Airworthiness Manual - Flight Authority and Certification of Noise Compliance* and Chapter 549 of the *Airworthiness Manual - Airworthiness Standards Amateur-built Aircraft*. The exemption implemented the revised standards governing the design and construction of amateur-built aircraft, pending their official publication by the CARAC Secretariat.

Information Note: the “amateur-built” ministerial exemption can be viewed at the following Web sites:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/aviation/applications/exemptions/docs/en/1298.htm>

<http://info/aviation/applications/exemptions/docs/en/1627.htm>

- 2.2 Paragraph (7) of Appendix A to the “amateur-built” exemption provides for the issue of a special certificate of airworthiness — amateur-built in respect of an amateur-built aircraft constructed outside Canada, where:
 - (a) the aircraft was constructed in accordance with standards of the State of construction, and the Minister finds them to be equivalent to these standards;
 - (b) the aircraft was issued a permanent flight authority pursuant to the regulations of the State of construction, and has subsequently completed not less than 100 hours air time; and
 - (c) the aircraft undergoes a complete inspection for compliance with these standards, by a Civil Aviation Safety Inspector or a Minister’s Delegate - Recreational Aviation (MD-RA).
- 2.3 Delegation of Authority
 - (a) In accordance with Delegation of Authority Document Number 149545, dated 9 February 1999, and pursuant to section 507.03 of the CARs, MD-RAs are delegated the authority to issue a special certificate of airworthiness in respect of an aircraft that meets the criteria for one of the classifications of a special certificate of airworthiness specified in Chapter 507 of the *Airworthiness Manual*; conforms to the applicable type design or, in the case of an amateur-built aircraft, is designed and constructed in a way that ensures its airworthiness, in conformity with the requirements of Chapter 549 of the *Airworthiness Manual* or of the “amateur-built” ministerial exemption that implements the revised standards governing the design and construction of amateur-built aircraft; and is safe for flight.
 - (b) In consideration of the fact that an imported amateur-built aircraft is considered to be a new Canadian amateur aircraft project, it is within the delegation of authority of the MD-RAs to conduct the inspection and issue the original Canadian special certificate of airworthiness – amateur-built.

3. PROCESS

3.1 Request for information

- (a) Requests for information will be processed by MD-RA Inspection Services:

MD-RA Inspection Services
2469 Aviation Lane
London, Ontario
N5V 3Z9

telephone: 519-457-2909
toll free: 1-877-419-2111 (in Canada only)
FAX: 519-457-0980

Email: md-ra@md-ra.com
Web site: <http://www.md-ra.com/>

- (b) MD-RA Inspection Services will provide the applicant with a copy of the **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT** (see Appendix A of this MSI).
- (c) The applicant will complete the checklist and return it to MD-RA Inspection Services.
- (d) MD-RA Inspection Services will assign the review of the information to a MD-RA delegate for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the foreign-built amateur aircraft for the issuance of a special certificate of airworthiness — amateur-built.
- (e) A foreign-built amateur aircraft is eligible for a special certificate of airworthiness — amateur-built, if it meets the following requirements:
- (i) the aircraft was constructed in accordance with standards of the State of construction, and the Minister finds them to be equivalent to these standards;
 - (ii) the aircraft was issued a permanent flight authority pursuant to the regulations of the State of construction, and has subsequently completed not less than 100 hours air time.
 - (iii) the aircraft complies with the standards of design and construction for amateur-built aircraft, found in Appendix A of the ministerial exemption (see reference above).
- (f) A MD-RA delegate shall verify compliance of the aircraft with the requirements of paragraph 3.1(e)(i) and (ii) above by means of a review of the aircraft's technical records and foreign flight authority — see Appendix A - **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT**.
- (g) Once it has been determined that the aircraft complies with the requirements of paragraph 3.1(e)(i) and (ii), MD-RA Inspection Services will inform the prospective Canadian owner that the aircraft is eligible for a final inspection (to show compliance with requirement 3.1(e)(iii) above), and that the regional Transport Canada Aircraft Registration and Leasing office is to be contacted for the registration of the aircraft. The original copy of the **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT** shall form part of the inspection records; a copy shall be provided to the prospective Canadian owner.
- (h) Photocopies of the technical records, including the journey log, if available (proof that the aircraft has been operated for a minimum of 100 hours air time), the foreign certificate of registration, and the foreign flight authority, including the operating conditions / limitations that are part of the flight authority (proof that the amateur-built aircraft had been issued a permanent flight authority by the foreign civil aviation authority) shall be retained as part of the inspection records.
- (i) If it is determined that the aircraft is not eligible for the issue of a flight authority, the prospective Canadian owner will be advised of the reason why the aircraft is not eligible for importation. A copy of the **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT** shall be forwarded to the prospective Canadian owner.

- (j) If it is determined that the aircraft is not eligible for a flight authority, the original copy of the **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT** shall be forwarded to the TC regional office.

Information Notes:

- (i) *the foreign amateur-built aircraft can be flown into Canada under the foreign registration and foreign flight authority, and the Standardised Validation of a Special Airworthiness Certificate - Experimental, for the purpose of operating a United States-registered amateur-built aircraft in Canadian airspace;*
- (ii) *if the foreign amateur-built aircraft has been de-registered and has no valid foreign flight authority, the aircraft can be flown into Canada by means of a Provisional Certificate of Registration and Ferry Permit — the prospective Canadian owner is to be referred to the Aircraft Registration and Leasing Division of the General Aviation branch of the region where the aircraft will be based.;*
- (k) The amateur-built aircraft construction standards of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States have been found to be equivalent to the standards of design and construction for amateur-built aircraft detailed in the “amateur-built” ministerial exemption.
- (l) However, before a Canadian flight authority can be issued in respect of the imported aircraft, the aircraft shall have to comply with all of the applicable design requirements found in Appendix A of the “amateur-built” exemption (see sub-paragraph 2.1 above).
- (m) For amateur-built aircraft construction standards other than those of the FAA, the officer responsible for this MSI shall be consulted.

3.2 Aircraft Registration

- (a) MD-RA Inspection Services will provide a signed copy of the **REPORT ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF A FOREIGN-BUILT AMATEUR AIRCRAFT FOR A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS - AMATEUR-BUILT** (see Appendix A of this MSI) to the prospective Canadian owner in support of their application for a Certificate of Registration, thus attesting that the aircraft is eligible for a final inspection, hence a flight authority, hence, a certificate of registration.
- (b) The registration of the aircraft is the responsibility of the prospective Canadian owner.

3.3 Inspection

- (a) No inspection of foreign-built amateur aircraft shall be carried out until such time as the aircraft has been registered in Canada, and a certificate of registration issued.
- Information Note:** *at the time of the inspection, the MD-RA shall verify that the information on the certificate of registration is the same information that appears on the aircraft identification plate; the MD-RA shall ensure that the information that appears on the flight authority is the same information that appears on the aircraft identification plate and the certificate of registration.*
- (b) All imported amateur-built aircraft will be considered as a new Canadian amateur-built aircraft project.
- (c) Imported amateur-built aircraft are not subject to the “pre-cover” inspection.
- (d) All imported aircraft will be subject to inspection for compliance with the standards of design and construction for amateur-built aircraft detailed in Appendix A of the “amateur-built” ministerial exemption.
- (e) The inspection will be in the form of a “final inspection”, utilizing the MD-RA Manual of Procedures For Inspection of Amateur-built Aircraft, and include verification for compliance with requirements such as maximum weight limitations, maximum number of occupants, placards and fuel flow.
- (f) All inspections shall be carried out by Minister’s Delegate - Recreational Aviation (MD-RA)
- (g) The MD-RA performing the inspection shall be the holder of a delegation card whose scope of delegation includes the aircraft category and construction material of the imported aircraft.

3.4 Aircraft Identification Plate

