

Airline Suppliers Association Accreditation Program Letter of Interpretation (LI) 100-005A

EFFECTIVE DATE: *January 1, 2001.*

TERMINATION DATE: *December 31, 2001.*

ISSUE: When an ASA-100 accredited distributor requires its business partners to complete audit forms to establish aspects of their quality history, may that accredited distributor accept evidence of accreditation to AC 00-56 as an alternative to completion of such audit forms?

AFFECTED SECTIONS: ASA-100 Revision 3.2 § 5(B) ¶ 2 and ASA-100 Revision 3.3 § 5(C).

BACKGROUND:

The ASA-100 quality system requires that an accredited distributor meet the requirements of both ASA-100 and the FAA Advisory Circular AC 00-56 (Voluntary Industry Distributor Accreditation Program). ASA-100 Revision 3.2 § 5(B) ¶ 2 and ASA-100 Revision 3.3 § 5(C) requires that accredited distributors "maintain a list of their approved distributors and a quality history for each source." This requirement helps to assure that incoming parts and materiel meet acceptable standards.

Many accredited distributors (although not necessarily all accredited distributors) develop such a list by sending audit forms to their business partners (hereinafter, the companies that provide parts to an accredited distributor will be known as "suppliers"). The results of these completed forms are retained as part of the quality records associated with the suppliers. One alternative method that some distributors have used is to accept evidence of accreditation to AC 00-56 in lieu of completion of a standard audit form.

This Letter of Interpretation (LI) provides one acceptable practice that may be used in complying with the affected section. This practice is advisory only - it is not a required practice and it may not be the only acceptable manner of compliance.

RESOLUTION:

An accredited distributor may include in its quality manual a provision requiring its suppliers to complete audit forms as a means of developing and maintaining a list of approved suppliers. In the event that the accredited distributor does maintain such data, it is acceptable to waive the form submission requirement for companies that present evidence that they have been found to meet the requirements of AC 00-56.

One way of determining whether a company meets the requirements of AC 00-56 is to check the FAA's database of companies that have demonstrated their compliance with the AC. This list can be found at <http://www.airlinesuppliers.com/accredited.html>.

Regardless of this LI, an accredited distributor will be required to follow the written guidance found in its quality manual, as well as the standards to which it is accredited. If this LI contradicts the accredited distributor's quality manual, ASA-100 or AC 00-56, then the controlling authority is determined in the following order of precedence:

- 1) AC 00-56
- 2) ASA-100
- 3) Quality Manual

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION:

This interpretation is offered for clarification purposes only. No further activity is anticipated at this time.

**QUESTIONS/INQUIRES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
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