

Safety Attribute Inspection (SAI) Data Collection Tool
1.3.13 Designated Alteration Station (DAS) (AW)

ELEMENT SUMMARY INFORMATION

Purpose of this Element (certificate holder's responsibility):

- To ensure the certificate holder develops and uses appropriate data for major alterations or for the issuance of a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC), in accordance with its Designated Alteration Process (DAS) privileges, limitations, and ACO-approved DAS procedures manual.

Objective (FAA oversight):

- To determine if the certificate holder's DAS process meets all applicable requirements of Title 14 of the Code of the Federal Regulations (14 CFR) and FAA policies.
- To determine if the certificate holder's DAS process incorporates the safety attributes.
- To identify any shortfalls in the certificate holder's DAS process.

Specific Instructions:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Specific Regulatory Requirements (SRRs):

- SRRs:
 - 121.135(a)(1)
 - 121.135(b)(1)
 - 121.135(b)(2)
 - 121.135(b)(3)
 - 121.379(b)
 - 21.439(a)(1)
 - 21.439(a)(3)
 - 21.441(a)
 - 21.441(a)(1)
 - 21.441(a)(2)(i)
 - 21.441(b)
 - 21.451(a)(2)
 - 21.451(c)

Related CFRs & FAA Policy/Guidance:

- Related CFRs:
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- FAA Policy/Guidance:
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SAI Section 1 - Procedures Attribute

Objective: Procedures, instructions, and information are documented methods for accomplishing a process. The certificate holder's policies should establish their compliance posture. Policies may be stand-alone statements, or they may be imbedded within procedures, instructions, or information regarding a particular regulatory requirement. The questions in this section of the data collection tool (DCT) are designed to assist the inspector in determining if the certificate holder has documented or prescribed methods of accomplishing the process requirements that provide answers to the associated questions regarding who, what, when, where, and how. This section contains policy questions, procedural questions, and instructional or informational questions pertaining to various types of certificate holder requirements such as actions, prohibitions, or resources (i.e., personnel, facilities, equipment, technical data, etc.).

Tasks

	To meet this objective, the inspector must accomplish the following tasks:
1.	Review the information listed in the Supplemental Information section of this DCT.
2.	Review the duties and responsibilities for management and other personnel identified by the certificate holder who accomplish the DAS process.
3.	Review the certificate holder's DAS process to ensure it contains the policies, procedures, instructions and information necessary for personnel to perform their duties and responsibilities with a high degree of safety.

Questions

	To meet this objective, the inspector must answer the following questions:	
1.	Does the certificate holder's DAS process meet the specific regulatory and FAA policy requirements:	
1.1.	Does the certificate holder provide instructions and information to ensure it uses its ACO-approved DAS procedures manual when performing an alteration using its DAS authority? SRRs: 121.135(a)(1); 121.379(b); 21.451(a)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.2.	Does the certificate holder's approved DAS process contain: SRRs: 21.441(a)	
1.2.1	The procedures for issuing Supplemental Type Certificates (STC's)? SRRs: 21.441(a)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.2.2	The names, signatures, and responsibilities of officials, and each engineering staff member, flight test, and inspection personnel, identifying those persons who have authority to make changes in procedures that require a revision to the procedures manual? SRRs: 21.441(a)(2)(i); 21.441(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.3.	Does the certificate holder document instructions and information necessary for approving any aircraft, airframe, or aircraft engine for return to service, after a major alteration (STC), in accordance with technical data approved by the Administrator ? SRRs: 121.135(a)(1); 121.379(b) <i>Related Design JTIs:</i> 1. Check that the Certificate Holder has a policy ensuring the use of	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

	<p>approved data to perform major alterations. <i>Sources:</i> 121.379(b) <i>Interfaces:</i> 1.3.1(AW); 1.3.2(AW); 1.3.9(AW)</p>	
2.	<p>Does the certificate holder's manual contain general policies for the DAS process that comply with the SRRs? SRRs: 121.135(b)(1); 121.379(b); 21.439(a)(1); 21.451(a)(2); 21.451(c) <i>Related Design JTIs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check that the Certificate Holder has a current Certificate Holder operating certificate under FAR Part 121. <i>Sources:</i> 21.439(a)(1); The FAA Aircraft Certification Office is an internal resource that should be contacted during activities with this item. 2. Check that the Certificate Holder has a policy ensuring the use of approved data to perform major alterations. <i>Sources:</i> 121.379(b) <i>Interfaces:</i> 1.3.1(AW); 1.3.2(AW); 1.3.9(AW) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
3.	<p>Does the certificate holder's manual reference the appropriate Federal Aviation Regulations listed in the Supplemental Information section of this safety attribute inspection (SAI)? SRRs: 121.135(b)(3)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
4.	<p>Does the certificate holder's manual contain the duties and responsibilities for personnel who will accomplish the DAS process? SRRs: 121.135(b)(2); 21.441(a)(2)(i); 21.441(b)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
5.	<p>Does the certificate holder's manual include instructions and information for personnel to meet the requirements of the DAS process? SRRs: 121.135(a)(1); 21.439(a)(3); 21.451(a)(2); 21.451(c) <i>Related Design JTIs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check that the Certificate Holder's manual has instructions and information that ensures adequate maintenance facilities and personnel, in the United States, appropriate to the products that it may operate and maintain under its certificate. <i>Sources:</i> 21.439(a)(3); The FAA Aircraft Certification Office is an internal resource that should be contacted during activities with this item. <i>Interfaces:</i> 1.3.3(AW) 2. Check that the Certificate Holder's manual has information and instructions necessary to ensure an adequate number of engineering staff, flight test, and inspection personnel to determine compliance with the applicable airworthiness requirements of this chapter. <i>Sources:</i> 21.439(a)(4); The FAA Aircraft Certification Office is an internal resource that should be contacted during activities with this item. 3. Check that Certificate Holder's manual contains instructions and information necessary to ensure that the DAS Authorization applies only to products covered by the operating certificate and maintenance manual of the Certificate Holder. <i>Sources:</i> 21.451(a)(2); The FAA Aircraft Certification Office is an internal resource that should be contacted during activities with this 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

	<p>item.</p> <p><i>Interfaces:</i> 2.1.1(AW); 2.1.1(OP); 2.1.2(AW); 2.1.2(OP)</p> <p>4. Check that the Certificate Holder has instructions and information contained in their manual ensuring compliance with additional limitations prescribed by the Administrator after inspection of the Certificate Holder's facilities or review of the staff qualifications.</p> <p><i>Sources:</i> 21.451(c); The FAA Aircraft Certification Office is an internal resource that should be contacted during activities with this item.</p> <p><i>Interfaces:</i> 1.3.3(AW)</p>	
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SAI Section 1 - Procedures Attribute Drop-Down Menu	
1.	No procedures, policy, instructions or information specified.
2.	Procedures or instructions and information do not identify (who, what, when, where, how).
3.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information do not comply with CFR.
4.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information do not comply with FAA policy and guidance.
5.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information do not comply with other documentation (e.g., manufacturer's data, Jeppesen's Charts, etc.).
6.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information unclear or incomplete.
7.	Documentation quality (e.g., unreadable or illegible).
8.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information inconsistent across Certificate Holder manuals (FOM - Flight Operations Manual to GMM - General Maintenance Manual, etc.).
9.	Procedures, policy or instructions and information inconsistent across media (e.g., paper, microfiche, electronic).
10.	Resource requirements incomplete (personnel, facilities, equipment, technical data).
11.	Other.

SAI Section 2 - Controls Attribute

Objective: Controls are checks and restraints designed into a process to ensure a desired result. The questions in this section of the DCT are designed to assist the inspector in determining if checks and restraints are designed into the process to ensure the desired result is achieved. Controls should be written into the system to ensure that the most important policies, procedures, or instructions and information will be followed.

Controls may be in the form of administrative controls, which are secondary or supplemental written procedures. Like written procedures, administrative controls also need to provide answers to questions regarding who, what, when, where, and how. Controls may also be in the form of engineered controls, such as automated features or mechanical actions or devices (i.e., safety devices, warning devices, etc.).

Tasks

To meet this objective, the inspector must accomplish the following tasks:

1. Review the control questions below.
2. Review the certificate holder's policies, procedures, instructions, and information to gain an understanding of the controls that it has documented.

Questions

	To meet this objective, the inspector must answer the following questions:	
1.	Are the following controls built into the DAS process:	
1.1.	Is there a control or controls in place to ensure that the certificate holder performs only DAS alterations on products covered by its certificate and ACO-approved manual?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.2.	Is there a control or controls in place to ensure that the certificate holder complies with any additional limitations prescribed by the Administrator (ACO)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.3.	Is there a control or controls in place to ensure that the certificate holder, upon notification by the cognizant ACO, investigates a product and reports the findings, for which an STC was issued that did not meet the airworthiness requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.4.	Is there a control or controls in place to ensure that the observed aircraft alterations comply with DAS technical data?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.5.	Is there a control or controls in place to ensure that the certificate holder accomplishes alterations within its DAS authority?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
2.	Does the certificate holder have a documented method for assessing the impact of any changes made to the controls in the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

SAI Section 2 - Controls Attribute Drop-Down Menu	
1.	No controls specified.
2.	Documentation for the controls do not identify (who, what, when, where, how).
3.	Controls incomplete.
4.	Controls could be circumvented.
5.	Controls could be unenforceable.
6.	Resource requirements incomplete (personnel, facilities, equipment, technical data).
7.	Other.

SAI Section 3 - Process Measurement Attribute

Objective: Process measurements are used by the certificate holder to measure and to assess its processes, to identify and to correct problems or potential problems, and to make improvements to the processes. The questions in this section of the DCT are designed to assist the inspector in determining if the certificate holder measures or assesses information to identify, analyze, and document potential problems with the process. Process measurements are a certificate holder's internal evaluation or auditing of the most important policies, procedures or instructions, and information associated with an element.

To prevent the duplication of work, process measurements are most commonly addressed through a combination of auditing features contained in both the certificate holder's safety program/internal evaluation program (for operations and cabin safety related issues) and the auditing function of the Continuous Analysis and Surveillance System (for airworthiness or maintenance/inspection related issues). The director of safety and the quality assurance department often work together to accomplish this function for the certificate holder. This approach requires amendment of the safety program/internal evaluation program audit forms or checklists and the Continuous Analysis and Surveillance System audit forms or checklists to include the specific process measurements for each element.

Tasks

	To meet this objective, the inspector must accomplish the following tasks:
1.	Review the process measurement questions below.
2.	Review the certificate holder's policies, procedures, instructions, and information to gain an understanding of the process measurements that it has documented.

Questions

	To meet this objective, the inspector must answer the following questions:	
1.	Does the certificate holder's DAS process include the following process measurements:	
1.1.	Is there a process measurement or process measurements that would reveal if the certificate holder performed DAS alterations on anything other than products covered by its certificate and ACO-approved manual?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.2.	Is there a process measurement or process measurements that would reveal if the certificate holder failed to comply with any additional limitations prescribed by the Administrator (ACO)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.3.	Is there a process measurement or process measurements that would reveal if the certificate holder failed, upon notification by the cognizant ACO, to investigate a product and report the findings, for which an STC was issued that did not meet the airworthiness requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
1.4.	Is there a process measurement or process measurements that would reveal if aircraft alterations failed to comply with DAS technical data?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
2.	Is there a process measurement or process measurements that would reveal if the certificate holder's policy, procedures, instructions, and information were not followed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
3.	Does the certificate holder document its process measurement methods and results?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
4.	Does the certificate holder use its process measurement results to improve its programs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

5.	Does the organization that conducts the process measurements have direct access to the person with responsibility for the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
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SAI Section 3 - Process Measurement Attribute Drop-Down Menu	
1.	No process measurements specified.
2.	Documentation for the process measurements does not identify (who, what, when, where, how).
3.	Inability to identify negative findings.
4.	No provisions for implementing corrective actions.
5.	Ineffective follow-up to determine effectiveness of corrective actions.
6.	Resources requirements (personnel, facilities, equipment, technical data).
7.	Other.

SAI Section 4 - Interfaces Attribute

Objective: Interfaces are used by the certificate holder to identify and manage the interactions between processes. The questions in this section of the DCT are designed to assist the inspector in determining whether or not interactions between the policies, procedures, or instructions and information associated with other independent processes within the certificate holder's organization are documented. Written policies, procedures, or instructions and information that are interrelated and located in different areas within the certificate holder's system must be consistent and complement each other. For the interfaces to be effectively managed, the certificate holder's system should identify and document the interfaces.

Tasks

	To meet this objective, the inspector must accomplish the following tasks:	
1.	Review the interfaces associated with the DAS process that have been identified along with the individual questions in section 1, Procedures, of this DCT.	
2.	Review the certificate holder's policies, procedures, instructions, and information to gain an understanding of the interfaces that it has documented.	

Questions

	To meet this objective, the inspector must answer the following questions: Note: The design job task items (JTIs) displayed with the questions in section 1, Procedures, of this DCT identify potential interfaces (by element number) for this element.	
1.	Does the certificate holder's system properly address the interfaces that are identified along with the individual questions in the section 1, Procedures, of this DCT?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
2.	Does the certificate holder document a method for assessing the impact of any changes to the associated interfaces within the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

SAI Section 4 - Interfaces Attribute Drop-Down Menu	
1.	No interfaces specified.
2.	The following interfaces not identified within the Certificate Holder's manual system:
3.	Interfaces listed are inaccurate.
4.	Specific location of interfaces not identified within the manual system.
5.	Other

SAI Section 5 - Management Responsibility & Authority Attributes

Objective: The questions in this section of the DCT address the responsibility and authority of the process. They are designed to assist the inspector in determining if there is a clearly identifiable, qualified, and knowledgeable person who is responsible for the process, is answerable for the quality of the process, and has the authority to establish and modify the process. (The person with the authority may or may not be the person with the responsibility.)

Tasks

	To meet this objective, the inspector must accomplish the following tasks:
1.	Identify the person who has overall responsibility for the DAS process.
2.	Identify the person who has overall authority for the DAS process.
3.	Review the duties and responsibilities of the person(s), documented in the certificate holder's manual.
4.	Review the appropriate organizational chart.

Questions

	To meet this objective, the inspector must answer the following questions:	
1.	Does the certificate holder clearly identify who is responsible for the quality of the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain Name/Title:
2.	Does the certificate holder clearly identify who has authority to establish and modify the policies, procedures, instructions, and information for the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain Name/Title:
3.	Does the certificate holder's manual include the duties and responsibilities of those who manage the work required by the DAS process? SRRs: 121.135(b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
4.	Does the certificate holder's manual include instructions and information for those who manage the work required by the DAS process? SRRs: 121.135(a)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
5.	Does the certificate holder clearly and completely document the responsibility for this position?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
6.	Does the certificate holder clearly and completely document the authority for this position?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
7.	Does the certificate holder clearly and completely document its qualification standards for the person having responsibility for the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
8.	Does the certificate holder clearly and completely document its qualification standards for the person having authority to establish and modify the certificate holder's policies, procedures, instructions, and information for the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain
9.	Does the certificate holder clearly and completely document the procedures for delegation of authority for the DAS process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, Explain

SAI Section 5 - Management Responsibility & Authority Attributes Drop-Down Menu
1. Not documented.
2. Documentation unclear.
3. Documentation incomplete.
4. Other.