

General Requirements when Commissioning of Airport Weather Observation System's (AWOS)

The request for AWOS's has become more prevalent at different types and sizes of airports. This Resource Bulletin highlights selected key requirements when installing and commissioning an AWOS at an airport.

• General Coordination –

- The first step an airport sponsor should take is to coordinate with the FAA Non-Federal Facilities Program Manager/ Coordinator for the Central Service Area (FAA AJV-C37).
- An FCC license for transmission cannot be obtained without coordinating with the FAA (FAA AJV-C37). A frequency cannot be assigned until an FAA Form 7460-1 is submitted, coordinated and a Final Determination Letter is issued (60-120 day process).
- AWOS installations must meet the standards identified in both Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5220-16 and AC 6560.20.

- **Equipment Certification** – Only FAA-certified AWOS equipment may be used on AIP grant projects. A listing of certified AWOS equipment is maintained by the FAA Weather Office, AJW-14A2.

• General Commissioning Requirements –

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Operations and Maintenance Manual (OMM) must be established and agreed to between the sponsor and the Local FAA Technical Operations (Tech Ops) District Office. The MOU/OMM is signed after installation, but prior to commissioning.
- The Local FAA Tech Ops District Office will conduct a commissioning ground inspection
- The Local FAA Tech Ops District Office will verify that the airport owner/sponsor has the resources to maintain the system in proper working order.

- A flight inspection is required for Navigational Aids used for AWOS dissemination.
- At this time, no AWOS's have been approved or authorized by FAA for "remote" commission or inspection.

- **Location Identifier's (LocID's)** – FAA Order 7350.8K includes the requirement that an airport's LocID be 3-letters only under certain circumstances.

- If your AWOS meets, or will meet, the following criteria, then the LocID will have to be changed to 3-letter only:
 - AWOS III or Better, and
 - Airport has at least one runway equal to or greater than 5,000 ft.
- An AWOS can be temporarily reprogrammed to the existing LocID while awaiting an update to the Terminal Procedure Publication. Contact FAA AJV-37 for coordination.

- **Connection to the National Airspace Data Interchange Network (NADIN)** –

- Only an AWOS III or better may connect to NADIN.
- Connections generally include additional airport equipment and ongoing network connection costs.

- **After Commissioning** – The Local FAA Tech Ops District Office or another FAA technical representative may conduct periodic inspections.

- **ATO Contacts:**

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Where Can I learn More?

- FAA Advisory Circular 150/5220-16C, AWOS's for Non-Federal Applications (December 13, 1999)
- FAA Order 6560.20B Siting Criteria for AWOS (July 20, 1998)
- FAA Order JO 7350.8K, Location identifiers (April 8, 2010)