

## **Engineering Brief # 54A**

OCTOBER 6, 1995

INFORMATION: Engineering Brief (EB) No. 54A, Field  
Modifications to Airport Lighting Equipment Date:

From: Manager, Engineering and  
Specifications Division, AAS-200

To: All Regions and AMA-600  
ATTN: Attn: Manager, Airports Division

Engineering Brief No. 54A, Field Modifications to Airport  
Lighting Equipment, supplements guidance provided in EB No.  
54, Acceptance of Airport Lighting Equipment.

As a result of equipment problems encountered with Vomar's  
Vomaglow signs, various airports have raised questions  
about the applicability of Advisory Circular 150/5345-53,  
Appendix 2, Paragraph 7. Specifically, "Does the field  
modification of airport lighting equipment require  
recertification of the equipment under the Airport Lighting  
Equipment Certification Program? As explained in the  
attached EB No. 54A, recertification, per se, is not  
required. However, some evidence that the modified  
equipment meets FAA standards must be made available to the  
FAA.

Original Signed By  
Richard J. Worch

Attachment

ENGINEERING BRIEF NO. 54A  
FIELD MODIFICATIONS TO AIRPORT LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Engineering Brief No. 54A provides additional guidance  
regarding acceptance of airport lighting equipment, as  
discussed in Engineering Brief (EB) No. 54.

EB No. 54 indicated that acceptance of installed equipment  
must be based on field performance of the equipment in  
accordance with the project specifications. It also  
indicated that rejection of equipment must be accomplished  
through whatever contractual remedies are available and/or  
enforcement of the manufacturer's guarantee.

In the event installed airport lighting equipment is not  
performing in accordance with specifications, field  
modification of such equipment may be made in order to  
remedy the problem. The airport must make the decision  
whether or not to allow field modification as a remedy and,  
if allowed, must establish to FAA's satisfaction that the  
equipment, as modified, meets FAA standards and

specifications.

Advisory Circular 150/5345-53, Appendix 2, Paragraph 7 states, "Once an equipment type has been certified, the manufacturer may not make any changes in the equipment without submission of the changes to and recertification by the third party certification body."

This raises the question of whether paragraph 7 applies to field modifications of installed equipment by a contractor, to make it perform in accordance with specification requirements. The intent of paragraph 7 is to ensure that any changes in the equipment made by a manufacturer will result in a product that still meets specification requirements and that all future production units will incorporate these changes. It does not apply to equipment installed on a project whereby a contractor has made a field modification so that the equipment will perform in accordance with specification requirements. Similarly, it does not apply to a one-time modification made by a manufacturer on a specific project, for the same purpose.

E. Tod Lewis  
Electronics Engineer