

Best Practice Direct Shipment

SCOPE OF THIS PRACTICE. This document provides information related to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) direct shipment requirements.

BACKGROUND. To ensure continued safety in civil aviation, it is essential that the aviation community understand what the FAA requires when aircraft parts are shipped directly from a supplier of an FAA-approved manufacturer to an end-user.

In April 2002, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) published Aerospace Recommended Practice (ARP) 9004, Direct Ship – Recommended Practices for Aerospace Companies. ARP9004 was prepared under the jurisdiction of SAE Committee G-14, Americas Aerospace Quality Group, with representation from both industry and the FAA. The FAA Production and Airworthiness Division, AIR-200, supports the use of ARP9004 as an industry standard.

Since ARP9004's publication, various entities of the aerospace industry requested that FAA provide additional "FAA specific" information on direct shipment via this Best Practice, essentially complimenting the information contained in ARP9004. It was also suggested that this Best Practice use a plain language concept, via question and answer format.

DEFINITIONS. The following definitions are used within the context of this document and may not be the same as similar terms used in other documents or applications:

a. Customer. The recipient of a direct ship article (i.e., owner/operator, repair station, distributor).

b. Production Approval Holder (PAH). A holder of a Production Certificate, Approved Production Inspection System, Parts Manufacturer Approval, or Technical Standard Order authorization, who controls the design and quality of a product or part thereof.

DIRECT SHIP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. What is a direct shipment? A direct shipment is a shipment from a PAH's supplier directly to a customer, for parts which have been manufactured under the PAH's production approval. The customer may have ordered the parts either from the PAH or the supplier.

2. I am a PAH. What are my requirements for direct shipment? ARP9004 dated 2002-04, and published by SAE, is an industry standard that has been reviewed by the FAA and found to meet FAA requirements for direct ship.

3. I am a PAH. Can I direct ship parts from any suppliers? Yes, however there are restrictions on the direct shipment of parts from suppliers not located in the United States. You may contact your cognizant FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office for more specific information.

4. I am a distributor. Can I authorize direct shipment? No, only a PAH may authorize a direct shipment, and only for parts which have been manufactured under the PAH's production approval.

5. I am a customer. What should I be looking for when parts are direct shipped? Although the parts are being shipped from a PAH's supplier, the documents should show that they were approved under the PAH's system. ARP9004, published by SAE, is an industry standard that has been reviewed by the FAA and found to meet FAA requirements for direct shipment. It contains information on the documentation that should be provided with direct shipment parts.

6. I am a customer. I am expecting a direct shipment. What do I do if the accompanying paperwork does not contain the proper information? Parts that are alleged to have been direct shipped, but do not bear the appropriate direct shipment paperwork, should be carefully examined to confirm their airworthiness status.

7. How may I obtain a copy of an FAA Advisory Circular? You may obtain copies of these documents from:

U.S Department of Transportation
Subsequent Distribution Center, SVC-121.23
Ardmore East Business Center
3341Q 75th Avenue
Landover, MD 20785
facsimile (301) 386-5394
(Requests may be made only by mail or fax)

You may also obtain Advisory Circulars via the internet at the FAA Aircraft Certification Service's AC home page at <http://www.airweb.faa.gov/AC>

8. How may I obtain a copy of ARP-9004? You may purchase a copy of this document from

SAE
400 Commonwealth Drive
Warrendale, PA 15096-0001
(877) 606-7323
internet: www.sae.org

Nothing Follows.