

AC NO: 20-28A

DATE: 29 Dec 72



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: NATIONALLY ADVERTISED CONSTRUCTION KITS, AMATEUR-BUILT AIRCRAFT

1. PURPOSE. This circular is to call to the attention of persons contemplating the use of nationally advertised kits for the construction of an aircraft, that certain kits when used could render the aircraft ineligible for the issuance of an experimental certificate as an amateur-built aircraft.
 2. CANCELLATION. Advisory Circular No. 20-28, "Nationally Advertised Aircraft Construction Kits" dated 8/7/64 is cancelled.
 3. BACKGROUND. The increased popularity of amateur-built aircraft has increased the advertising of various PARTS AND/OR MATERIAL kits and components for use by the amateur aircraft builder. These advertisements have now appeared in local and national periodicals, mail order catalogs, and various other publications. Some of the advertisements tends to be unclear as to what kits and components are eligible for use in constructing an aircraft to be certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration. Recently individuals have apparently ordered kits, prior to ascertaining that the aircraft would qualify as amateur-built.
 4. SUGGESTED GUIDELINES. The use of the following guidelines are recommended prior to the purchase of prefabricated kits or components for use in the construction of amateur-built aircraft.
 - a. Obtain all the detail data available on the prefabricated kit or component from the advertiser.
 - b. Follow the provisions of Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 21, Section 21.191(g) which states: ". . .an aircraft the major portion of which has been fabricated and assembled by persons who undertook the construction project solely for their own education or recreation."
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- c. Compare the detail data on the kit with information contained in FAA Advisory Circular No. 20-27B dated 4/20/72, which states:

"Many components, parts, and materials need not be fabricated by the applicant but may be procured through normal trade channels. (For example: engines, propellers, rotor blades and hubs; wheel and brake assemblies; "standard" aircraft hardware such as pulleys and fasteners; and materials such as tubing, fabric, and extrusions). In addition, raw material construction kits and structural components of other aircraft may be used provided the builder has fabricated and assembled the major portion of the aircraft for education or recreation.

"Aircraft which are merely assembled from kits composed completely of prefabricated components and parts, and pre-cut, pre-drilled materials are not considered to be eligible for certification as amateur-built aircraft, since the major portion of the aircraft would not have been fabricated and assembled by the builder." When one simply assembles the aircraft it is difficult to show compliance with the requirement concerning fabrication and assembly.

- d. When you contemplate the purchase of a kit to build an aircraft to be certificated as amateur-built, contact the nearest FAA Engineering and Manufacturing District Office (EMDO). In an area where a General Aviation Maintenance Inspector is handling certification of amateur-built aircraft, contact him. It should be remembered that the inspector can only decide as to the eligibility of such a kit, after he sees an actual representation of that kit and becomes familiar with your particular program of work.



C. R. MELUGIN, JR.
Acting Director, Flight Standards Service