



TAD-494.6  
AC NO: 91-27A

DATE: 16 Dec 70

# ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT:** SYSTEMSWORTHINESS ANALYSIS PROGRAM - GENERAL AVIATION

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1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular explains the purpose and applicability of the Systemsworthiness Analysis Program (SWAP) to certificated air taxis, repair stations, pilot and aviation maintenance technician schools that are operated under the privileges of certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.
  2. CANCELLATION. Advisory Circular 91-27, Systemsworthiness Analysis Program - General Aviation, dated 10/30/69, is cancelled.
  4. DISCUSSION. Certificate holders have a responsibility for performing under the terms of their certificate in such a manner that will assure compliance with applicable regulations. The FAA also has a responsibility for determining compliance with applicable regulations. In the past, FAA discharged this responsibility through frequent formal and informal inspections conducted by the inspectors assigned certificate responsibility. Several years ago, FAA developed SWAP which is a programmed audit, indepth type of inspection conducted by teams specially qualified for this type work; thus reducing the need for frequent formal inspections. SWAP, which was initially used to inspect certificated air carriers, has been expanded to include certain certificated general aviation operators.
  5. CONCEPT. Operators who employ management controls and disciplines through formal instructions are more successful in achieving compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations and insuring the safety of their product.
    - a. The SWAP objective is to promote the acceptance of management methods that ensure compliance with applicable rules. To this end, SWAP teams audit management techniques and practices and make recommendations for improvement in a cooperative environment.
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- b. SWAP teams may encounter situations that indicate noncompliance with regulations. Whether intentional or otherwise, these situations are not ignored. Such matters are brought to the attention of the principal inspector who is assigned responsibility for assuring compliance. The principal inspector will process the matters as appropriate.
6. PROCEDURES. SWAP teams arrange for inspection of large certificated air taxis, repair stations, pilot and aviation maintenance technician schools. SWAP inspections are less frequent but more indepth than previous formal and informal inspections. They are applied in those cases where a team inspection will result in better utilization of FAA inspector manpower. Experience has disclosed that operators also benefit from suggestions and recommendations that result from the team inspection technique.
- a. The assigned principal inspectors survey operators between SWAP inspections to assure continued compliance. There will be no change in the inspection methods employed by FAA for those operators who are not subject to the team method. In these cases, the principal inspector assigned to survey the operation will continue to conduct surveillance and inspection as usual.
  - b. Certificate holders are urged to consider the benefits that can be attained for themselves and FAA through a cooperative and understanding effort of both parties.



Acting Director,  
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