

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8700.33

11/4/04

Cancellation  
Date: 11/4/05

## SUBJ: RESTRICTIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF POWER-OFF AUTOROTATION LANDINGS

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**1. PURPOSE.** This notice provides clarification to existing guidance for inspectors who are assigned to certain helicopter examining activities.

**2. DISTRIBUTION.** This notice is distributed to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; to the Flight Standards District Offices; and to the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. This notice is also distributed electronically to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters and to all regional Flight Standards divisions and district offices. This information is also available on the Federal Aviation Administration's Web site at: <http://www.faa.gov/avr/afs/notices/8700/N8700-33.doc>.

### 3. BACKGROUND.

**a.** After recent accidents/incidents involving auto-rotations to a power-off landing during flight instructor helicopter practical tests, the Flight Standards Service is taking a critical look at the conduct of certain helicopter examining activities. The Flight Activity Crew Tracking System (FACTS) indicates that 169 inspectors are currently assigned to conduct helicopter practical tests in the Flight Standards Service.

**b.** Of those inspectors, 131 participate in Event Based Currency (EBC). Order 4040.9D, FAA Aircraft Management Program, appendix 11, paragraph 28e, requires those inspectors who maintain currency under EBC and who give single-engine helicopter practical tests to conduct touchdown autorotations. Order 4040.9D, appendix 17, paragraph 39a(4), also requires these inspectors to have logged 2 hours of pilot time and made at least five autorotations to power-off landings in that aircraft type.

### 4. GUIDANCE.

**a.** In an effort to improve safety, the current national resource inspector (NRI) program shall be expanded to include those aviation safety inspectors qualified to conduct flight instructor practical tests in single-engine helicopters. These NRIs will be provided for additional currency/proficiency flying that focuses on the autorotation to the ground maneuver. This maneuver is prohibited unless the inspector is a designated NRI, approved by Flight Standards Service. In addition, autorotations to power-off landings will only be conducted by NRIs during helicopter flight instructor practical tests or when the NRI is receiving training from an approved source.

**b.** To increase quality control and standardization, currency/proficiency flying for the NRI assignment shall only be conducted using Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 141 certified flight schools or factory flight instructors.

**5. DISPOSITION.** This notice will be incorporated into Order 8700.1, General Aviation Operations Inspector's Handbook. Any questions concerning this guidance may be directed to the Certification and Flight Training Branch, AFS-840, at (202) 267-8212.

/s/ John M. Allen (for)  
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Director, Flight Standards Service