



August 17, 2021

To: SSA Board of Directors
From: Jim Garrison
Re: LODA Issue

On July 12, the FAA posted a notice in the Federal Register that restricted flight training in all types experimentally certificated aircraft. In short, to provide flight training in these aircraft, a flight instructor needs to have a Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) from the FAA. A link to the FAA's notice in the Federal Register is below.

- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/12/2021-14765/notification-of-policy-for-flight-training-in-certain-aircraft>

The General Aviation community, AOPA and EAA have published many negative views of this decision. If you have not read their take on the matter, links to some of the many recent articles about the issue are below.

- <https://www.flyingmag.com/story/training/faa-loda-policy-requirement/>
- <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2021/july/29/faas-dickson-loda-is-a-four-letter-word>
- <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2021/july/09/aopa-skeptical-of-faas-experimental-aircraft-training-policy>
- <https://www.eaa.org/eaanews-and-publications/eaanews-and-aviation-news/news/07-08-2021-faa-releases-policy-on-training-in-experimental-primary-and-limited-category-aircraft>

Even though the head of the FAA is not happy about this ruling, they are on record that they will follow it (see the second link above for statements made at Oshkosh).

Most flight training in Soaring is done in Standard Category aircraft and is not affected by this July 12 ruling. However, there are some instances where soaring flight instructors would provide flight instruction in experimental / racing category sailplanes (a two place experimental / racing sailplane like an Arcus). Soaring flight and ground instructors may also provide ground training in preparation, commonly called a cockpit familiarization check, to pilots transitioning into single place experimental/racing sailplane.

The Soaring Safety Foundation has looked into this with their contacts in the FAA and notes the following:

- (1) If an instructor is giving actual flight instruction in an experimental sailplane, he / she should have a LODA. Fortunately, the FAA has made these LODA's very easy to obtain. The link below leads you to an online form that requests an LODA.

https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/vintage_experimental/examiners/media/LODA_Template.pdf

If one fills in this form and sends it via email it to - 9-AVS-AFG- LODA@faa.gov - a signed LODA will be returned in a couple of days.

- (2) The FAA does not consider that a LODA is required to provide ground training (e.g.; cockpit familiarization checks) for club and insurance reasons in experimental / racing category gliders.