

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION SERIES

# AVIATION LEGISLATION

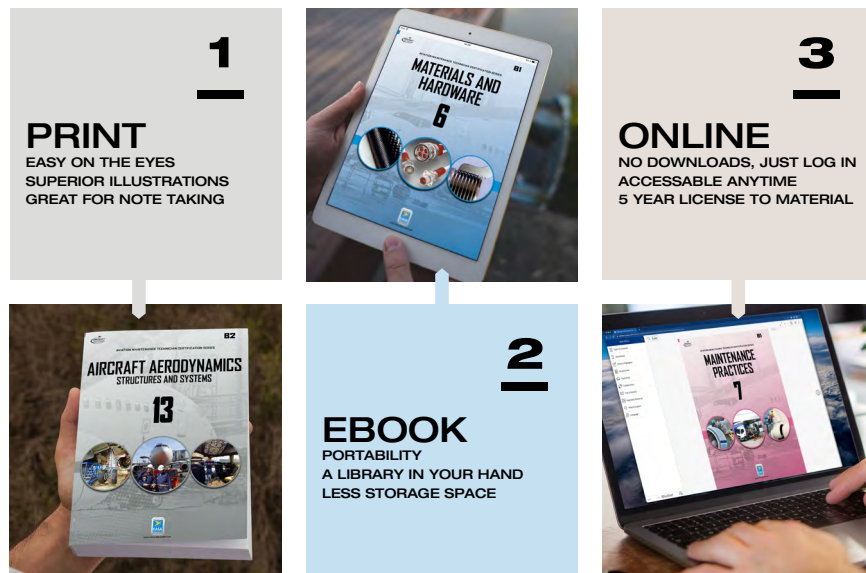
## 10



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# Independent Certifying Staff



## SUBMODULE KNOWLEDGE DESCRIPTIONS

SUBMODULE KNOWLEDGE DESCRIPTIONS		LEVEL
		B1/B2
10.4	<b>Independent Certifying Staff</b> Privileges, responsibilities, record-keeping, limitations, and oversight according to Part-M, Part-66 and Part-ML.	3

## 10.4 - INDEPENDENT CERTIFYING STAFF

For private aircraft, independent engineers may be used, often referred to as Independent Certifying Staff (ICS). ICS is a certifying staff who does not work on behalf of an approved maintenance organization. ICS must hold a license issued in accordance with Annex III (Part 66) rated for the corresponding aircraft or, if Annex III is not applicable to the particular aircraft, a national certifying staff qualification valid for that aircraft.

[Figure 4-1]

### INDEPENDENT CERTIFYING STAFF AUTHORIZATION

Part ML provides a proportionate framework for continuing airworthiness to correspond to the lower risks associated with 'Light Aircraft' in general aviation. Part ML sets out requirements to ensure that 'Light Aircraft' remain airworthy and are in a condition for safe operation.

- Part ML introduces an independent certifying staff authorization, which allows licensed engineers to carry out the airworthiness review and issue the Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) in conjunction with the annual inspection for light aircraft within the scope of Part ML.
- The authorization is issued after the applicant has carried out a satisfactory airworthiness review under supervision by the civil aviation authority.
- The authorization is limited by Part ML and the scope of aircraft on the applicant's license.

### AIRWORTHINESS REVIEWS PERFORMED BY INDEPENDENT CERTIFYING STAFF

An aircraft may not fly unless it has a valid ARC. This certificate is issued after a successful airworthiness review and has a validity of one year. The review entails a full review of the aircraft records and a physical survey of the aircraft.

Under Part ML Independent certifying staff holding a license issued in accordance with Annex III (Part 66), may perform airworthiness reviews and issue the ARC for aircraft registered in any member state. In accordance with ML.A.903, Airworthiness Review can be performed and ARC certificate issued for the following aircraft categories.

- Airplanes of 2 730kg maximum take off mass (MTOM) or less.
- Rotorcraft of 1 200kg MTOM or less, certified for a maximum of up to four occupants.
- Other ELA2 aircraft such as sailplanes or balloons.

This airworthiness review process may only be carried out by the authorized independent airworthiness review staff, who is releasing the aircraft from the 100 hour or annual inspection contained in the aircraft maintenance program. However, independent certifying staff holding a national qualification shall only perform airworthiness reviews and issue the ARC for aircraft registered in the member state responsible for the national qualification.

ARCs issued by independent certifying staff holding a national qualification shall not benefit from mutual recognition when transferring the aircraft to another member state. Whenever

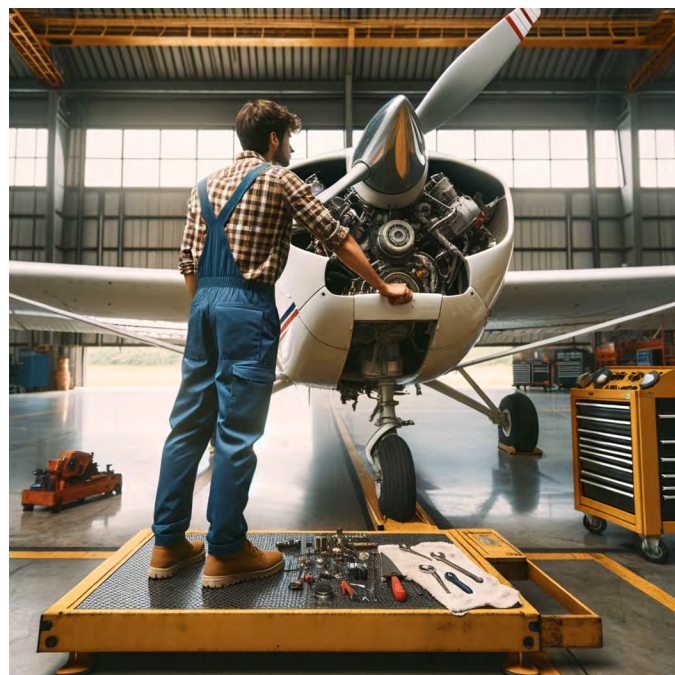


Figure 4-1. Independent certifying staff working on a general aviation aircraft.

circumstances reveal the existence of a potential safety threat, the competent authority shall carry out the airworthiness review and issue the ARC itself.

### **AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT AIRWORTHINESS REVIEW STAFF (PART ML.A.904)**

Authorized Independent Airworthiness Review Staff may be authorized by the competent authority who issued the license issued in accordance with Annex III (Part 66). If Annex III is not applicable, the competent authority responsible for the national certifying staff.

Authorized independent airworthiness review staff must meet the criteria of independent certifying staff. Initial authorization shall be issued by the competent authority when:

1. The competent authority has assessed that the person has the knowledge of the parts of Part ML relevant to continuing airworthiness management, performance of airworthiness reviews and issuance of ARCs;
2. The person has satisfactorily performed an airworthiness review under the supervision of the competent authority.

This authorization shall remain valid for a duration of five years as long as the holder has performed at least one airworthiness review every 12 months. If this is not the case, a new airworthiness review shall be satisfactorily performed under the supervision of the competent authority.

Upon expiration of its validity, the authorization shall be renewed for another 5 years subject to a new compliance with points (1) and (2) above. There is no limit to the number of renewals. The holder of the authorization shall keep records of all the airworthiness reviews performed and shall make them available, upon request, to any competent authority and to any aircraft owner for whom they are performing an airworthiness review. At a minimum, such records should include, for each airworthiness review performed, a copy of:

- The documented airworthiness review carried out (documentation review and physical survey)
- The ARC issued and evidence that it was sent to the competent authority of the member state of registry.
- The CRS for the annual inspection (This is in addition to the records which must be retained for any maintenance released in accordance with ML.A.801 b-2).
- The aircraft maintenance program and AMP review, where applicable.
- All findings reported to the owner.

This authorization may be revoked by the competent authority at any time if it is not satisfied with the competence of the holder or with the use of such an authorization. [Form 4-1]

### **AIRWORTHINESS REVIEW**

Authorized independent airworthiness review staff may perform airworthiness reviews. The airworthiness review consists of a review of the aircraft's continuing airworthiness records and a physical survey of the aircraft. Airworthiness review tasks shall not be subcontracted. The effectiveness of the AMP may be reviewed in conjunction with the airworthiness review.

### **AIRWORTHINESS REVIEW CERTIFICATE**

Authorized independent airworthiness review staff may issue the ARC for aircraft registered in any member state. However, independent authorized airworthiness review staff holding a national qualification shall only perform Airworthiness Reviews and issue the ARC for aircraft registered in the member state responsible for the national qualification. Airworthiness review certificates (EASA Form 15c) may only be issued upon completion of a satisfactory airworthiness review. [Form 4-2A-B]

Note that persons and organizations performing the airworthiness review in combination with the 100h/annual inspection may use the reverse side of this form in order to issue the CRS referred to in point ML.A.801 Corresponding to the 100 hour or annual inspection.

### **AIRWORTHINESS REVIEW CHECKLIST**

Details of the inspection and documentation review that is to be carried out may be found in Part ML.A.903 Airworthiness Review Process. This checklist may be used as a guide, but the authorized independent airworthiness review staff must carry out an airworthiness review in accordance with the requirements of Part ML. A sample documentation review and physical review checklist is shown in Form 4-4.

Before issuing the ARC, independent airworthiness review staff should ensure the aircraft is in compliance with the shown checklist in Form 4-5, and that all of the listed items are properly entered and certified in the aircraft continuing airworthiness record system and/or in the operator's technical log.

### **INDEPENDENT CERTIFYING STAFF AND COMPONENT MAINTENANCE**

Part M (M.A.502) allows the performance of certain component maintenance, in accordance with component maintenance data, to independent certifying staff, subject to the agreement of the authority of the member state of registry.

This should only be permitted by the competent authority in the case of simple component maintenance, where the competent authority is satisfied that the certifying staff are appropriately qualified and the proper tooling and facilities are available. It is important to note that for more complex component maintenance, special qualifications may be required and it is not enough with holding a Part 66 aircraft maintenance license.

### **BASIC MAINTENANCE EXPERIENCE**

According to AMC 66.A.30(a), aircraft maintenance experience can be gained under the supervision of independent certifying staff, if accepted by the competent authorities. This means that the aircraft maintenance experience may be accepted by the competent authority when such maintenance is not performed in an organization with EASA Part 145 approval. A CRS shall be issued after the required maintenance has been carried out properly on an aircraft by independent certifying staff. [Form 4-5]



## EASA Form 4 (Authorised Independent Airworthiness Review Staff)

IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY	
Details of Management Personnel required to be accepted as specified in Part-ML.A.904.	
<b>1. Name:</b> _____	
<b>2. Position:</b> <u>Authorised Independent Airworthiness Review Staff</u>	
This authorises the holder to perform Airworthiness Reviews and issue Airworthiness Review Certificates (Form 15c) for aircraft subject to Part ML and meeting the criteria of ML.A.901(b)(4) when the holder is also issuing the CRS for the Annual/100-h inspection per the Aircraft's Maintenance Programme.	
Holders with a national qualification shall only perform airworthiness reviews and issue the ARC for aircraft registered in Ireland.	
<b>3. Qualifications relevant to the item (2) position:</b>	
<b>4. Work experience relevant to the item (2) position:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b> ..... <b>Date:</b> .....	
<i>This Form 4 is only valid if the holder has performed at least 1 airworthiness review in the previous 12 months.</i>	
=====	
<b><u>Irish Aviation Authority use only</u></b>	
<i>AIARS No.:</i> ..... <i>VALIDITY: This Form 4 is valid until</i> .....	
<b>Name and signature of competent authority staff member accepting this person:</b>	
<b>Signature</b> ..... <b>Date</b> .....	
<b>Name</b> ..... <b>Office</b> .....	

Form 4-1. Example of Irish aviation authorities application form for Authorized independent airworthiness review staff.