



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

December 17, 2018

Mr. Bob Mills  
3443 Modena Circle  
Las Vegas, NV 89120

Dear Mr. Mills:

The General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, has reviewed the Formation Flying, Incorporated (FFI) program and manual, revision 3.0, effective January, 2019. Upon review of FFI program documentation, we determined that successful completion of any formation flying training and evaluation program provided by FFI, a Recognized Industry Organization (RIO), is an acceptable method for airmen to meet the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement, as established in FAA Order 8900.1, volume 3, chapter 6, section 1, for conducting (non-aerobatic) standard formation flight operations in waived airspace for an aviation event. As such, otherwise qualified pilots who possess a current and valid formation flying qualification card issued by FFI are qualified to conduct standard formation flying at an aviation event in the United States. We recommend that each qualified pilot carry their FFI card (electronic copy accepted) with them to verify their qualifications.

FAA acceptance of the FFI program should not be construed as a special waiver, exemption, or exception to the guidelines, provisions, and/or requirements of any Certificate of Waiver (CoW) for an aviation event and/or other pilot qualification requirements. The FFI card advises FAA field personnel that pilots who possess these cards have successfully received sufficient training and have been evaluated to conduct formation flying in a safe manner. It is expected that formation flying will be performed within all applicable guidelines and provisions of the CoW for each aviation event such as, but not limited to:

1. Adherence to appropriate showline restrictions;
2. Adherence to restrictions regarding maneuvers that direct energy toward spectators;
3. Adherence to appropriate minimum safe altitudes restrictions;  
and
4. Appropriate participation at the participant safety briefings.

We will post this information on our FAA National Aviation Events Program website (<https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>) site notifying all ASIs that FFI continues to be a RIO with an FAA accepted formation program. Pending no significant changes this Letter of Authorization extends through the next biennial review. Any changes to this manual or program documents will require revalidation by this office prior to implementation.

We appreciate the cooperation you have extended to the FAA and look forward to working with FFI in the future to assure the highest levels of aviation safety for the airshow and aviation event community. Please contact Sue Gardner, the National Aviation Events Specialist, with any questions at (202) 267-0855 or via email at [sue.gardner@faa.gov](mailto:sue.gardner@faa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mark E. Giron  
Manager, General Aviation Operations Branch