



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

Aviation Safety
Flight Standards

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

May 19, 2026

Mr. Tim Redden
President FFI
Formation Flying Inc



Dear Mr. Redden:

The General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, has reviewed the Formation Flying, INC (FFI) Formation Standards and Proficiency Program Manual, Version 4, May. 2026. The FFI program is an aircraft organization whose training program adhere to a certain level of standardization concerning formation flying training and pilot evaluation.

Upon review of the FFI program documentation, we determined that successful completion of any formation flying training and evaluation program provided by the above listed FFI signatory organization, a Recognized Industry Organization (RIO), is an acceptable method for pilots 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 valid formation flying qualification card issued FFI should be 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 show line 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 and a list of signatory organization on our FAA National Aviation Events Program website (<https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/airshow/>) notifying all ASIs that FAST continues to be a RIO with an accepted formation program Any changes to this manual will require revalidation by this office.

This authorization expires on **December 31, 2029**.

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. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact this office at (414) 486-2970 or via email at joseph.saunders@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Saunders
Manager, General Aviation Operations Group, AFS-830 GAO