



# Federal Aviation Administration

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## Memorandum

Date: 9/16/2022

To: See Distribution List

From: Victor Wicklund, Acting Director, Policy and Innovation Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service, AIR-600

Prepared by: Fred Gentile, Aviation Safety Inspector, Production and Airworthiness  
Systems Section, AIR-632

Subject: Correction of the term "natural person" in FAA Order 8130.2J,  
*Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft*, paragraph 15-2

Memo: AIR600-FY22-630-PM06

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WICKLUND  
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### Purpose

This memorandum corrects the use of the term "natural person" when referring to the amateur builder in FAA Order 8130.2J, *Airworthiness Certification of Aircraft*, paragraph 15-2(a).

The primary audience for this memo is Aircraft Certification Service Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASIs), Flight Standards Service airworthiness ASIs, Designated Airworthiness Representatives (DAR-F and DAR-T), FAA Academy Instructors, and the public.

### Background

In 2017, FAA Order 8130.2J, paragraph 15-2(a), introduced a definition of "amateur builder" as the "natural person" who fabricates and assembles the major portion of its aircraft for its own recreation or education. Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), part 21, section 21.191(g), however, states that the major portion of an amateur-built aircraft must be fabricated and assembled by *persons* who undertake the project solely for their own education or recreation. Since the revision, the FAA has received several requests for clarification of the term "natural person."

## Discussion

Section 1.1 defines “person” as “an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or governmental entity. It includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, or similar representative of any of them.” Thus, the FAA’s regulatory definition of “person” includes both natural persons (individuals) and organizations.

The FAA has determined that the term “natural person” in FAA Order 8130.2J is more restrictive than what the regulation allows and could preclude educational institutions, associations, and clubs from exercising the provisions of the rule that is intended for recreation and education.

The FAA will correct this language in a future revision to FAA Order 8130.2J. In the meantime, the term “natural person” as used in FAA Order 8130.2J should be understood to mean “person” or “persons” when describing the amateur builder.

If you have any questions, please contact the Policy & Innovation Division, AIR-600, at (202) 267-1575.

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