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**RTCA Task Force 4 – Certification  
Implementation Plans and Responsibilities  
Final Report of the RTCA Certification Steering Committee**

Certification Steering Committee  
August 31, 2001

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## FOREWORD

This document was prepared by the Certification Select Committee. Papers reviewed and approved by the Certification Steering Committee at its final meeting on August 31, 2001 form the basis for the report.

RTCA, Incorporated, is a not-for-profit corporation formed to advance the art and science of aviation and aviation electronic systems for the benefit of the public. The organization functions as a Federal Advisory Committee and develops consensus-based recommendations on contemporary aviation issues. RTCA's objectives include but are not limited to:

- coalescing aviation system user and provider technical requirements in a manner that helps government and industry meet their mutual objectives and responsibilities;
- analyzing and recommending solutions to the system technical issues that aviation faces as it continues to pursue increased safety, system capacity and efficiency;
- developing consensus on the application of pertinent technology to fulfill user and provider requirements, including development of minimum operational performance standards for electronic systems and equipment that support aviation; and
- assisting in developing the appropriate technical material upon which positions for the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union and other appropriate international organizations can be based.

The organization's recommendations are often used as the basis for government and private sector decisions as well as the foundation for many Federal Aviation Administration Technical Standard Orders.

Since RTCA is not an official agency of the United States Government, its recommendations may not be regarded as statements of official government policy unless so announced by the U.S. government organization or agency having statutory jurisdiction over any matters to which the recommendations relate.

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 26, 1999 the RTCA Task Force 4 - Certification issued its Final Report, which concluded a one-year study of aviation certification issues. The Final Report contained fifteen recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration and the aviation industry. These recommendations were not prescriptive in nature but identified opportunities for improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the aviation certification processes.

At the request of the FAA Administrator, two committees consisting of government and aviation industry personnel were formed to assist with the implementation of the fifteen recommendations. The Certification Steering Committee was the guiding body to charter and promote the work of the Certification Select Committee, which developed responses to the fifteen recommendations. The Certification Steering Committee held its final meeting on August 31, 2001, during which it accepted the Certification Select Committee's papers that address implementation of the fifteen Task Force 4 (TF4) recommendations. This body of work describes FAA initiatives already underway for implementing certain TF4 recommendations and provides proposals for implementing those recommendations not yet addressed. These papers, accepted on August 31, 2001, as well as material briefed to the Steering Committee on March 23, 2001 (Appendices C and D), form the basis for this final report.

To accomplish its objectives the Certification Select Committee reviewed the overarching issues identified by Task Force 4 and formed three Working Groups each co-chaired by a government and industry representative, to address the specific recommendations in context of:

- Working Group 1 – Operational Concepts and Procedures
- Working Group 2 – End-to-End Operation and System Requirements
- Working Group 3 – Organizational Certification and Oversight

The Select Committee's work plans aimed to provide a two part approach, facilitating a progressive change in FAA and industry certification processes (people, equipment, systems, procedures), while implementing near-term recommendations to reduce cycle time, cost and complexity, thereby making the process more consistent and responsive to today's operational environment.

Following the text of each recommendation contained in the RTCA Task Force 4 Final Report, below there is a brief summary of the Certification Select Committee's corresponding action to:

- Transition the recommendation to the FAA or elsewhere for further development and implementation or;
- Respond to the recommendation directly with near-term implementation or acknowledgement of FAA action already underway.

Six recommendations and elements of two further recommendations were transitioned to the Federal Aviation Administration for further action and completion. Transition papers were prepared, and included in this report, outlining:

- What the recommended end state solution should look like;
- A high level roadmap of how to reach the end state;
- What products are required to reach the end state and who should be responsible;
- Metrics to measure efficiency and effectiveness improvements.