

National Maintenance Alert (NMA-20-043)

Effective Date: 10/21/2020 00:00 Z

Reduced Maintenance Guidance During COVID-19 Response

Facility:

ALL

Summary:

Update on 10/21/2020: Updated the Critical Maintenance file and the next update date of this Maintenance Alert.

This Maintenance Alert updates NMA-20-043 in providing continued guidance for reduced directed Modifications and Preventive Maintenance (PM) of National Airspace System (NAS) systems and facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic national emergency.

Background:

In order to respond to the rapidly evolving situations related to social distancing, reducing risk to employees and the public, and any potential staffing required by, or due to, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Operations Support Directorate (AJW-1) is providing the following updated guidance.

Action:

Modification and Preventive Maintenance guidance provided below in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In developing this guidance, the Safety of the NAS is our number one priority.

If the specialists cannot perform Preventive Maintenance with either appropriate social distancing or appropriate face coverings worn by the specialists as well as other FAA / contractor personnel as needed, the specialist may delay or reschedule for a later time when the specialist can complete the Preventive Maintenance safely.

Additionally, this Maintenance Alert applies to Preventive Maintenance, Corrective Maintenance, and Modification/Directive Maintenance. Other normal maintenance activities do not fall under the authority of this Maintenance Alert. Those include local grounds and roads and other locally prioritized work.

If you have questions or comments regarding this guidance, please escalate them to your Service Area, Technical Services Manager.

Modifications:

During this time, hardware and software modifications will be deferred. Exceptions include:

- Modifications required for Charting Cycle updates

- National Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) /Law Enforcement mission continuance as approved by AJW-1,
- Similar regularly scheduled updates; or
- Directives approved through Service Area Directors requests and Operations Support Directorate approval. The list of currently approved Directives can be accessed using the following link: [https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19 NAS Periodic Maintenance Guidance](https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19%20NAS%20Periodic%20Maintenance%20Guidance).

Preventive Maintenance:

It is imperative that you continue to perform PMs in a safe manner, considering social distancing, and that you preplan and coordinate all PMs with appropriate Operational Risk Management (ORM).

We are deferring all Preventive Maintenance tasks (PMs) during this time. Exceptions include:

- Critical Maintenance Tasks identified in the Critical Maintenance file. The Critical Maintenance file can be accessed using the following link: [https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19 NAS Periodic Maintenance Guidance](https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19%20NAS%20Periodic%20Maintenance%20Guidance). This site also provides a Critical Maintenance Task list with Task Glossary Codes which can be used as a reference to quickly locate RMLS task numbers.
- Preventive Maintenance environmental tasks not covered by FAA maintenance handbooks or Technical Instruction books that have been established as local PM tasks as approved by the district.
- Environmental and personnel safety maintenance tasks required to comply with federal, state or municipality codes.
- Certification of services is periodic and scheduled; you must perform daily service certifications at least once every three days, and perform weekly service certifications at least once per week in accordance with current policy in Order 6000.15, General Maintenance Handbook for NAS Facilities, Appendix B. You may use any available method to make a certification judgment, typically service certification does not require an interruption, and can be performed based on user feedback or observation of advertised functionality being provided to the user in the operational environment. You may perform PMs that facilitate your service certification judgment.
- Certification of systems is event based, and only required in connection to certain events defined in Order 6000.15, Par 5-4; such as restoration after an outage (scheduled or unscheduled), aircraft accident investigation, security breach, or changes to a certification parameter. You may use any available method to make a certification judgment. If we defer a PM that requires an interruption, we don't have an event, and therefore the existing system certification is still valid.

- Flight inspections, including required pre-inspection checks.
- Maintenance activities required for the 56-day and 28-day chart updates.
- Maintenance activities associated with the seasonal change from Fall to Winter (refer to [NMA-20-081](#)).
- Facilities should continue to complete Elevator Inspections and Maintenance in accordance with local/regional contracts and, to the extent contractually possible, FAA Order 6950.12A, Elevator Maintenance and Inspection Procedures.
- Taking as-found readings on systems administratively removed from service by the Technical Operations Aircraft Accident Representative (TOAAR).
- Maintenance activities required in order to assist FTI with maintaining equipment and services that do not require FAA escort or oversight.
- Maintenance activities required in order to assist NAS Cyber Operations (NCO) with identification or remediation of NAS cyber events.

Preventive Maintenance Logging Guidance:

An attachment with Preventive Maintenance Logging Guidance for critical and non-critical tasks can be accessed using the following link:

[https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19 NAS Periodic Maintenance Guidance](https://support.rmls.faa.gov/documents/RMSET/documentGroup.aspx?group=COVID-19%20NAS%20Periodic%20Maintenance%20Guidance)

Tracking Critical PMs with the new TechNet COVID-19 Dashboard:

To assist in identifying PMs that are critical to mission essential operations, TechNet has added a new COVID-19 Dashboard which can be configured to only show PMs that are on the Critical Maintenance File List and required to be performed as normal.

Corrective Maintenance:

Local Technical Operations management, in coordination with Air Traffic, NAS Defense Programs (NDP) and other stakeholders, will determine the impact to the NAS services and coordinate restoration appropriately. When restoration is required, technicians are encouraged to utilize remote maintenance to the maximum extent possible, and perform certification if required.

Resolution:

This Maintenance Alert, and future versions of it, will remain in effect through the pandemic. As no one can predict that end, or when social distancing mitigations become less important for employees' safety, it is safe to assume this alert will be in place through the remainder of calendar year 2020. This alert will be updated regularly during this time, and will be updated again not later than November 30, 2020.