



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Western-Pacific Region

P.O. Box 92007  
Worldway Postal Center  
Los Angeles, CA 90009

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

MAY 18 1998

Mr. Gary C. Rosenfield  
Aerotech, Inc.  
1955 S. Palm Street, Suite 15  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Dear Mr. Rosenfield:

In the early 1960's, when Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 101, Subpart C (Unmanned Rockets), was promulgated, the rocket industry was in its infancy. However, since the publication of Subpart C, Unmanned rocket technology has evolved to a point where these vehicles are now capable of reaching very high altitudes.

While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the responsibility to manage the nation's airspace, the regional administrative offices do not have the engineering expertise to evaluate the manner in which some of these vehicles (e.g. the minuteman, conestoga, etc.) can or will operate. The responsibility for licensing and regulating non-government space launches and launch site operations resides with the newest line of business in the FAA, the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST).

At the request of FAA Headquarters, we were required to forward rocket launch waiver request to the Air Traffic Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, in Washington, DC, for all launches that exceed the standards set forth in CFR part 101.22. A new procedural requirement is now in effect.

Effective immediately, all launches that have a predicted altitude greater than 25,000 ft above ground level must be reviewed by ATA-400. Additionally, regardless of the altitude, waiver request for all launches involving rockets that do not meet all three of the following conditions, must also be reviewed at that level:

1. Has a motor, or combination of motors, with a total impulse of 200,00 pound-seconds or less; and
2. Has a motor, or combination of motors, with a total burning time or operating time of less than 15 seconds; and

3. Has a ballistic coefficient (i.e., gross weight in pounds divided by the frontal area of the rocket vehicle) less than 12 pounds per square inch.

Please include in your submitted package; name, address, and telephone and fax number of the applicant; launch vehicle physical dimensions and weight; type of launch vehicle propulsion, such as solid, liquid, or hybrid; total impulse and burn time of the launch vehicle motors; launch site location; planned flight path, including staging and impact locations; and predicted altitude of the launch vehicle. More information may be required depending on the potential public safety issues involved.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Ms. Jessica Shapiro, AWP-530, Operations Specialist, at 310-725-6537.

Sincerely,



Alton D. Scott  
Manager, Operations Branch