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National Air and Space Museum

Civil Aeronautics Administration Aircraft Specifications

Debbie D. Griggs

1990

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Civil Aeronautics Administration Aircraft Specifications
Date:	1940-1951
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0175
Extent:	1.18 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) required that all civilian aircraft manufacturers obtain aircraft type certificates. A manufacturer had to submit a list of the aircraft's specifications (measurements, weight, and capabilities) to prove the craft's airworthiness. This collection contains CAA files on specifications of airplanes, helicopters, airships, gliders, and floats from 1940-1951.

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Debbie D. Griggs, 1990.

Preferred Citation

Civil Aeronautics Administration Aircraft Specifications, Acc. NASM.XXXX.0175, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

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Biographical / Historical

The Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) was created by act of Congress in 1938, taking over the duties of the Department of Commerce Aeronautics Branch (est. 1926) and its successor, the Bureau of Air Commerce, and the aviation-related responsibilities of the Post Office Department and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Authority consisted of two branches: the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), responsible for regulating air commerce and accident investigations, and the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), responsible for air safety, control of air traffic, operation of Federal Airways communication systems, and airport improvement. In 1940, the Authority was split, with the CAB remaining an independent body, while the CAA was placed under the Commerce Department.

In order to keep pace with rapid growth in civil aviation after World War II, which provide beyond the capabilities of the CAA, Congress established the Federal Aviation Administration in 1958 as an independent body incorporating the CAA, the Airways Modernization Board, and portions of the CAB.

Scope and Contents

The Civil Aeronautics Administration required that all civilian aircraft manufacturers obtain aircraft type certificates. A manufacturer had to submit a list of the aircraft's specifications (measurements, weight, and capabilities) to prove the craft's airworthiness. This collection contains CAA files on specifications of airplanes, helicopters, airships, gliders, and floats from 1940-1951. The items are arranged numerically within type of aircraft. A CAA inspection handbook with revisions through 1948 is located at the end of the specifications. In addition, there are two folders labeled "AIRCO" which contain miscellaneous hand-written notes and photographs.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics
aeronautics, civil

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	CAA Glider Specifications
Box 1, Folder 2	CAA Helicopter Specifications
Box 1, Folder 3	CAA Airship Specifications
Box 1, Folder 4	CAA Float Specifications
Box 1, Folder 5	CAA Aircraft "AL-" Series Specifications
Box 1, Folder 6	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-300 Series
Box 1, Folder 7	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-500 Series
Box 1, Folder 8	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-600 to A-633
Box 1, Folder 9	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-634 to A-667
Box 1, Folder 10	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-668 to A-689
Box 1, Folder 11	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-690 to A-699
Box 1, Folder 12	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-700 to A-720
Box 1, Folder 13	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-721 to A-740
Box 2, Folder 1	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-741 to A-760
Box 2, Folder 2	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-761 to A-763
Box 2, Folder 3	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-764 to A-769
Box 2, Folder 4	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-770 to A-779
Box 2, Folder 5	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-780 to A-783
Box 2, Folder 6	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-784 to A-789
Box 2, Folder 7	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-790 to A-794
Box 3, Folder 1	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-793 to A-799
Box 3, Folder 2	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-800 to A-804

Box 3, Folder 3	CAA Aircraft Specifications A-805 to A-812
Box 3, Folder 4	CAA Aircraft Specifications 1A1 to 1A6
Box 3, Folder 5	CAA Aircraft Specifications 1A9 to 6A4
Box 3, Folder 6	CAA Inspection Handbook, Chapter 18, Approved Aircraft, dated 12/16/40, Revised on 1/15/48 (1 of 2)
Box 3, Folder 7	CAA Inspection Handbook, Chapter 18, Approved Aircraft, dated 12/16/40, Revised on 1/15/48 (2 of 2)
Box 3, Folder 8	AIRCO [Personal Notes]
Box 3, Folder 9	AIRCO [photographs]