

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**Reference Manual #60: Aviation Management**

**Chapter 8 – Crewed Aircraft Maintenance and Inspection**

(Update release September 2024)

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Reviewed by the Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management

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## 8 Crewed Aircraft Maintenance and Inspection

### 8.1 Maintenance

DOI fleet aircraft, and privately owned aircraft (not to include travel under the Federal Travel Regulations) conducting government business, must be maintained in accordance with the maintenance programs as outlined in [351 DM 2](#).

This chapter prescribes minimum aircraft equipment and maintenance standards for all activities within DOI. This applies to DOI fleet aircraft, commercial aviation operations, employee-owned private aircraft operated on official business, cooperator aircraft, and uncertificated ex-military aircraft, operated by DOI.

### 8.2 Inspection Programs

DOI fleet aircraft and privately owned aircraft conducting government business (not to include travel under the Federal Travel Regulations) must be inspected in accordance with the inspection programs outlined in [351 DM 2](#).

### 8.3 Returning an Aircraft to Service

#### 8.3.1 Fleet Aircraft

Fleet aircraft shall not be operated until approved for return to service in accordance with [14 C.F.R. § 43](#). A functional flight test must be performed by a pilot certificated in accordance with [14 C.F.R. § 61](#) following: aircraft overhauls, major repairs or replacement of the engine, power train, rotor system, retractable landing gear system, flight controls, or adjustment of the flight control system. Flight test results shall be recorded in the aircraft maintenance record. No passenger shall be carried during a flight test. See [OPM-08, \*Acquisition, Management, and Disposal of Fleet Aircraft\*](#).

#### 8.3.2 Contracted Aircraft

Following unscheduled maintenance for contracted aircraft, a certified mechanic must approve the aircraft for return to service. Afterward, an approved DOI/USFS aviation inspector must then return the aircraft to contract availability, working with the flight manager, COTR, and COR. Reference the NSHO and the aircraft contract for more information. [OPM-08, \*Acquisition, Management, and Disposal of Fleet Aircraft\*](#).