

# A010

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**ForeFlight**  
Intelligent Apps for Pilots™

Date:

Dear:

requests an evaluation of its Apple iPad based, ForeFlight Mobile in-application, electronic Aeronautical Weather Briefing for approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at (location where the evaluation is requested). This device and software combination has been evaluated by the manufacturer and is believed to adequately meet the requirements for acceptance as a certificate holders'/program managers' OpSpecs/MSpecs A010 weather source provider, as outlined in the FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 26, Section 2. Appropriate hardware and software configuration control procedures have been established and are listed below for your review and approval.

The Apple iPad is a "Portable" (depending on installation) Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) that is used extensively by the aviation community in both commercial and private operations. It has gone through rigorous Rapid Decompression evaluation and has met the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA) DO-160, Environmental Conditions and Test Procedures for Airborne Equipment, up to the maximum operating altitude of the aircraft in which the EFB is to be used.

ForeFlight Mobile is categorized as a Type B application. The manufacturer believes that ForeFlight Mobile's in-application Aeronautical Weather Briefing information meets the FAA requirements for the following phases of flight:

- Preflight Planning
- Departure,
- En-route,
- and Arrival

In order to meet these high standards, ForeFlight Mobile has sourced all data for each phase of flight from reliable partners, including Weather Decisions Technologies (WDT). WDT and ForeFlight have both been recognized as Qualified Internet Communication Providers (QICP). Although the FAA no longer requires operators to utilize QICP vendors, both of their services continue to meet the previously defined performance criteria established under the QICP program. Data delivered by WDT includes METARs, TAFs, winds aloft and imagery for the entire flight planning process. ForeFlight Mobile's servers automatically check for updated weather information every minute of the day. Likewise, WDT updates airport weather information whenever it changes. If a more current observation is available, it is downloaded immediately and the display is updated. WDT continuously updates Radar and Satellite imagery every 3 minutes in the ForeFlight Mobile application. In addition, WDT provides the best and most accurate commercially available composite radar data there is for pilots. WDT provides the following graphical and textual weather products to ForeFlight Mobile:

- PIREPs/Aircraft Reports
- Composite Reflectivity radar for CONUS and Canada
- Infrared Satellite (Global)
- Visible Satellite Imagery (Global)
- Lightning
- Mesocyclone and Tornado/TVS

The National Weather Service (NWS), one of three FAA approved sources for weather reporting and forecasting, supplies the majority of the textual weather information delivered through ForeFlight Mobile. The weather products and information displayed in ForeFlight Mobile are “repackaged” weather, per the FAA’s definition, and thus suitable for:

- Weather reports and forecasts for origin, destination and alternate airports
- Weather reports and forecasts for airports located along the route of flight
- Field Condition (FICON) reports at origin, destination and alternate airports
- Winds aloft
- PIREPS, and
- AIRMETS, SIGMETS, convective SIGMETS, and Volcanic Ash Advisories (when in effect) for the entire route.

“Repackaged” weather information provided by ForeFlight Mobile is simply the retransmission of weather information obtained directly from the NWS. This retransmission is in the form of an Aeronautical Weather Briefing that must be reviewed within ForeFlight Mobile before a flight plan can be filed from the application. The Weather Briefing itself can be kept electronically for attachment to – and for later review of – the dispatch/flight release.

ForeFlight Weather Briefings and Flight Plan Summaries are stored on the iPad, Web, and emailed to the address shown in the electronic File & Brief form. A copy of each is also emailed to the ForeFlight account holder’s email address, if the two addresses are not the same. Account holder’s emails can either be personal or to an administrator for the company. To show a previous briefing, pilots can tap the Briefing button again when viewing a previously filed flight plan within the application. Also, existing briefings can be refreshed to show the latest data. It is necessary to have an active network connection in order to refresh or obtain a briefing.

ForeFlight Mobile weather information is accessed via the Public Internet. ForeFlight Mobile can be updated via Wi-Fi, 4G, 3G and Edge networks, depending on the device configuration, the carrier and the available network connectivity.

We believe the performance and reliability of the ForeFlight Mobile application has adequately proven to meet the Aeronautical Weather Briefing requirements common to all Air Carrier Flight Departments. We respectfully submit our request for your approval.

Sincerely,