



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

John C. Stennis Space Center
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000

SPD 8715.1 Rev. E
July 2022

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY

John C. Stennis Space Center Operational Readiness Program

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	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rev.</i>
	Effective Date: July 31, 2022	
	Expiration Date: July 31, 2027	
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Responsible Office: QA00/Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA)		
SUBJECT: SSC Operational Readiness Program		

Document History Log

Status/Change/ Revision	Change Date	Originator/Phone	Description
Basic	10/27/2000	Clifton Arnold/x1685	Replaces SPD 1700.4B.
A	8/8/2008	Dan Brady /x8-1187	Complete review and revision
B	8/2/2010	Robert Gargiulo/ x8-3842	Minor changes in semantics
B-1	2/28/2011	Robert Gargiulo/ x8-3842	Minor administrative changes; removed referenced NPR 7120.5.
C	2/1/2016	Robert Gargiulo/ x8-3842	Corrected terminology to reflect the changes to SPR 8715.2, included range operations, and changed SMA from an office to a directorate.
D	4/1/2017	Robert Gargiulo/ x8-3842	Revised paragraph 1. e. to have the ORAB “approve” vs. “certify” readiness. Revised paragraph 5. b. to have ORAB “approve” vs. “certify” ORA activities. Revised paragraph 6 to have ORAB “decisions and approvals” forwarded to the Center Director. Revised paragraph 2 b. to address the guidance for contractor operational readiness assessment programs. Revised paragraph 2.d. to exclude the examples of mishaps for clarity.
E	7/31/2022	Kamili Shaw/ x8-3025	Deleted references to the range in paragraphs 1.a. and 2.d. Replaced NPR 8715.3 with NPR 8715.1 in paragraph 3.d.

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1. POLICY

- a. This Stennis Policy Directive (SPD) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) establishes the policy for conducting an Operational Readiness Assessment (ORA) of facilities, operations, or equipment, including Special Test Equipment (STE), to assure initial and continued safe operations. This SPD also establishes the requirement for a Technical Review Process Team (TRPT) to investigate and recommend resolutions (if warranted) for technical issues uncovered during ORAs.
- b. Modifications or changes to facilities, equipment, and operations which increase the risk of injury to personnel and/or may result in severe property damage shall be reviewed and inspected for impacts to successful operations. All potentially hazardous situations will be identified and mitigated to the lowest level prior to initiation of operations of the complete system.
- c. ORA reviews and inspections shall be performed either by an Operational Readiness Inspection Committee (ORIC), an Operational Readiness Team (ORT) or an Independent Investigation (II) Investigator.
- d. ORICs, ORTs, or IIs shall verify the operational readiness of the facility, operations and personnel to ensure that appropriate safety measures and risk reductions have been completed.
- e. An Operational Readiness Assessment Board (ORAB) shall review and evaluate ORA activities and approve the readiness of facilities, equipment, personnel and operations for first operational use at SSC.
- f. Chairpersons and members of the ORIC, ORT, and IIs shall be selected, to the extent possible, from organizations without a vested interest in the activity for which the review is being conducted.
- g. A TRPT shall be formed to investigate and resolve specific technical issues that are uncovered in ORAs and not addressed by one of the above committees, teams, or individuals. Individuals assigned to the TRPTs will be chosen from those available and technically competent in the issues being investigated by the directors and managers who have cognizance over the projects/facilities/processes under review.

2. APPLICABILITY

- a. This SPD is applicable to NASA SSC personnel.
- b. This SPD applies to contractors only to the extent specified or referenced in the appropriate contracts. For contractors who do not have comparable operational readiness assessment programs, this directive and support procedural guidelines, such as Stennis Procedural

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Requirement (SPR) 8715.2, Operational Readiness Program Procedural Requirements, shall be used as a guide in establishing an operational readiness assessment program.

- c. This directive governs all operations under management responsibility of NASA SSC, performed by NASA, or NASA contractor employees.
- d. This directive applies to new construction, modification of existing facilities, and test operations and equipment in support of programs where there is a high potential for mishaps to occur.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. NASA Procedural Requirement (NPR) 1400.1, *NASA Directives and Charters Procedural Requirements*.
- b. NPR 7120.5, *NASA Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements*.
- c. NPR 7123.1, *NASA Systems Engineering Processes and Requirements*.
- d. NPR 8715.1, *NASA Safety and Health Programs*
- e. NPR 8820.2, *Facility Project Requirements*.

4. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

SPR 8715.2, *Operational Readiness Program Procedural Requirements*.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. The Director of the Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) Directorate is responsible for coordinating and monitoring compliance with this directive.
- b. The ORAB is responsible for conducting reviews, evaluations and approvals of ORIC, ORT and II activities.
- c. The TRPTs are responsible for reporting findings and conclusions of investigations to the ORAB and the directors and managers who authorized the formation of the TRPT and determined the scope of the TRPT investigation.

6. MEASUREMENT/VERIFICATION

ORAB decisions and approvals of ORAs will be forwarded to the Center Director for review.

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7. CANCELLATION

SPD 8715.1 Rev. D dated April 2017

Richard J. Gilbrech, Ph.D.
Director

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