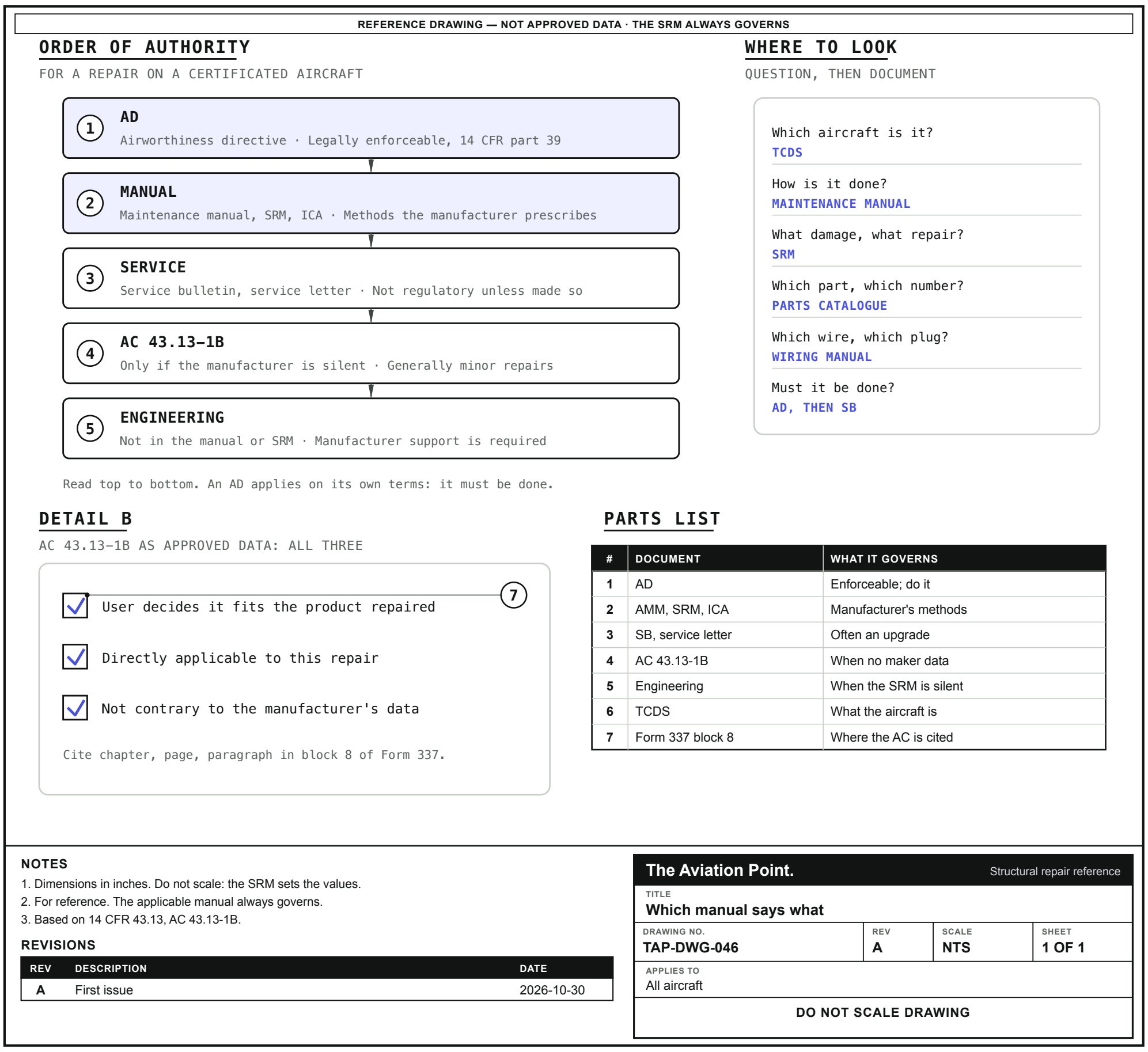
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Which Manual Says What: AMM, SRM, IPC, WDM, SB and AD

AD · manual and SRM · service information · AC 43.13-1B · engineering



#	DOCUMENT	WHAT IT GOVERNS
1	AD	Enforceable; do it
2	AMM, SRM, ICA	Manufacturer's methods
3	SB, service letter	Often an upgrade
4	AC 43.13-1B	When no maker data
5	Engineering	When the SRM is silent
6	TCDS	What the aircraft is
7	Form 337 block 8	Where the AC is cited

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	First issue	2026-10-30

Order of authority, questions, AC conditions and parts list, after 14 CFR 43.13(a), AC 43.13-1B paragraph 1 and FAA-H-8083-31B pp. 2-38, 2-39, 2-58, 4-92, 4-93.

The documents

Document	What it governs	Source, and the catch
AD (airworthiness directive)	A legally enforceable rule from the FAA under 14 CFR part 39, issued when an unsafe condition exists and is likely in other products of that type	Handbook p. 2-58 and glossary. Complying is not optional.
TCDS (type certificate data sheet)	The formal description of the aircraft: limits, certification basis, eligible serial numbers, eligible components	Handbook pp. 2-38, 2-58. It says what the aircraft is, not how to repair it.
Maintenance manual (AMM)	The manufacturer's recommended and acceptable procedures for maintaining or repairing the product; its Limitations section holds the life limits	Handbook pp. 2-38, 2-39. Personnel are required by regulation to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
IPC (illustrated parts catalogue, "parts book")	The parts and hardware to use; the Handbook says to follow it with the maintenance manual	Handbook p. 2-39. The Handbook names it but does not define it.
WDM (wiring diagram manual)	One of the volumes a manufacturer may publish with the maintenance manual	Handbook p. 1-36. Named, not defined.
SB, service letter, service instruction	The manufacturer's instructions for product improvement, or to revise manuals; letters can add procedures	Handbook pp. 2-39, 2-58. An SB is not regulatory unless an AD, the airworthiness limitations, an approved inspection programme or OpSpecs make it so.

Educational reference only, not approved data. Always consult the applicable SRM, AMM, or AC 43.13-1B and your certifying authority.

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Document	What it governs	Source, and the catch
SRM (structural repair manual)	The manufacturer's guideline for repairing common damage to a specific structure; acceptable repairs for specific sections	Handbook p. 2-39. Do not assume one manufacturer's methods apply to another (p. 7-35 note).

Document	What it governs	Source, and the catch
AC 43.13-1B	Acceptable methods and practices for inspection and repair of nonpressurized areas, only when there are no manufacturer repair or maintenance instructions	AC paragraph 1; Handbook p. 4-93. Generally minor repairs; for major repairs a basis for FAA approval only.

Key points

- **Manufacturer's manual and SRM first**; 14 CFR 43.13(a).
- **AC 43.13-1B only when the maker is silent**, and never contrary to its data.
- **Not in the manual or SRM:** manufacturer engineering support.
- **AD:** enforceable. **SB:** not, unless made so.
- **Current revision** of the manual, always.
- **Form 337 block 8** cites the AC chapter, page and paragraph.

SOURCES · 14 CFR 43.13, Maintenance, preventive maintenance, rebuilding, and alteration · AC 43.13-1B, Acceptable Methods, Techniques, and Practices — Aircraft Inspection and Repair · FAA-H-8083-31B, AMT Handbook — Airframe, Volume 1, Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 7

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