THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT

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

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

1 Identification

REFERENCE DRAWING — NOT APPROVED DATA · THE SRM ALWAYS GOVERNS

ORDER OF AUTHORITY

FOR A REPAIR ON A CERTIFICATED AIRCRAFT

1. **AD** — Airworthiness directive · Legally enforceable, 14 CFR part 39
2. **MANUAL** — Maintenance manual, SRM, ICA · Methods the manufacturer prescribes
3. **SERVICE** — Service bulletin, service letter · Not regulatory unless made so
4. **AC 43.13-1B** — Only if the manufacturer is silent · Generally minor repairs
5. **ENGINEERING** — Not in the manual or SRM · Manufacturer support is required

Read top to bottom. An AD applies on its own terms: it must be done.

WHERE TO LOOK

QUESTION, THEN DOCUMENT

Which aircraft is it?
TCDS

How is it done?
MAINTENANCE MANUAL

What damage, what repair?
SRM

Which part, which number?
PARTS CATALOG

Which wire, which plug?
WIRING MANUAL

Must it be done?
AD, THEN SB

DETAIL B

AC 43.13-1B AS APPROVED DATA: ALL THREE

- [x] User decides it fits the product repaired (7)
- [x] Directly applicable to this repair
- [x] Not contrary to the manufacturer's data

Cite chapter, page, paragraph in block 8 of Form 337.

PARTS LIST

#	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

NOTES

1. Dimensions in inches. Do not scale: the SRM sets the values.
2. For reference. The applicable manual always governs.
3. Based on 14 CFR 43.13, AC 43.13-1B.

REVISIONS

REV	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
B	Revised	2026

The Aviation Point.	Structural repair reference		
TITLE: Which manual says what			
DRAWING NO.: TAP-DWG-046	REV: B · 2026	SCALE: NTS	SHEET: 1 OF 1
APPLIES TO: All aircraft			
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			

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.

Document	What it governs	Source, and the catch
IPC (illustrated parts catalog, "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 program 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.

THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT

Document	What it governs	Source, and the catch
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.
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).
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.

2 Allowable damage

—

3 Repair

—

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.

MAIN 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 · 14 CFR 43.9, Content, form, and disposition of maintenance records

SCAN · OPEN THIS GUIDE
theaviationpoint.com/standard-practices/maintenance-documents/

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

THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT · THEAVIATIONPOINT.COM · THE AVIATION POINT