

August 30, 2023

# MOSAIC – The Expansion of Light Sport Aircraft

Shalem Massey & Jennifer Steeve



On July 24, the FAA released a major comprehensive proposal expanding on Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) definitions and pilot privileges. Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification, otherwise known as **MOSAIC**, proposes to amend rules governing LSA manufacturing, certification standards, maintenance, and operation. Essentially MOSAIC redefines the LSA category and dramatically raises the size and performance capabilities of airplanes that can be flown by sport pilots. Sport pilots can carry a passenger and operate in certain types of controlled airspace, but they may not fly at night and are limited to **lighter and lowered-powered** aircraft than those available to private pilots.

With only a 90-day period for public **comment**, we provide below a brief overview of the proposed changes.

- The FAA defines LSA as “an aircraft other than a helicopter or powered lift.” Under MOSAIC Section 22.100, the FAA will allow both categories to obtain special airworthiness certification in the light sport category.
- Eligible rotorcraft and powered-lift aircraft, such as helicopters, gyroplanes, and—as a significant change—eVTOL (such as human-occupied sky taxi drone-like aircraft), would enter the light sport arena.
- Revised Part 22 performance requirements will reflect new weight, cruise speed, and stall speed modifications.
- Importantly for many eVTOL manufacturers, electric propulsion systems will be incorporated into LSA, and the FAA will eliminate the single reciprocating engine design requirement.
- LSA pilots will be eligible to obtain helicopter rating under Section 21.190, and LSA repairmen and instructors will acquire new rotorcraft and powered-lift aircraft certificates and privileges.

## Client **Alert**

MOSAIC is expected to be finalized near the end of 2024. Fewer than 60 days remain for public requests, comments, and feedback to be considered by the FAA.<sup>1</sup>

For more information, **please contact:**

---



**Shalem A. Massey**  
1.949.359.5510  
[smassey@rshc-law.com](mailto:smassey@rshc-law.com)  
Los Angeles / Irvine



**Jennifer Steeve**  
1.949.359.5515  
[jesteeve@rshc-law.com](mailto:jesteeve@rshc-law.com)  
Los Angeles / Irvine

---

<sup>1</sup> The authors would like to thank Irvine's Project Assistant Juan Campos for his contributions to this article.