



National Wildfire Coordinating Group
National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-20-06

Date: 30 April 2020
To: Dan Reese, President, Global SuperTanker Services, LLC
From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee *Joel M Kerley*
Subject: Global SuperTanker Services Approved for Interim Approval of Retardant Delivery System in Boeing 747-400

This memo is in response to the Global SuperTanker Services (GSTS) letter dated March 20, 2020 in requesting interim approval of the retardant delivery system of Boeing 747-400.

The Interagency Air Tanker Subcommittee (IABS) has elevated GSTS's request for a seventh interim approval to the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC), which is the parent committee for IABS. The IABS does not support any further interim approvals without correcting some issues originally identified in the 2009 test of the system that included failure to meet coverage level 3 & 6, retention of retardant in the system after drop, aeration of the retardant causing trail off, and inconsistent flight profiles affecting retardant coverage.

Due to the current national situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), NIAC will issue an eighth interim approval to GSTS. However, NIAC will not support, nor issue a ninth interim until GSTS successfully passes all requirements of the 2013 IABS Criteria. This must be completed prior to December 31, 2020.

In order to be issued a ninth approval, GSTS must successfully pass all requirements of the 2013 IABS Criteria. The IABS will continue working with GSTS through static and grid testing to ensure all criteria requirements are fully passed. Once all requirements are passed, all deficiencies are corrected, and no new deficiencies are identified, the IABS will issue an additional interim approval for field evaluations. The number of static and grid tests to pass the standard will depend on the corrections made to the system. If continued or new failures are identified, further testing will be required until the system meets the requirements prior to consideration of an interim approval.

Questions: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee, joel.kerley@bia.gov or 208-387-5371.