



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

NSP GB

National Simulator Program
FSTD Qualification Guidance Bulletin

NSP GB 16-01
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Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

[National Simulator Program Guidance Bulletin](#)

An NSP GB contains valuable information for FSTD sponsors that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.

Subject: Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 60 Deviation Requests and Processing.

Purpose: This guidance bulletin describes the submission and review process for deviations to the 14 CFR part 60 Qualification Performance Standards (QPS) for the purpose of initially qualifying a flight simulation training device (FSTD).

Background: In March 2016, part 60 was amended to include § 60.15(c)(5), which added deviation authority to the rule. This amendment allows the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator to approve deviations from the part 60 QPS for the purpose of initially qualifying an FSTD where the use of the deviation does not adversely impact on the fidelity of the FSTD. This deviation authority promotes international harmonization of FSTD evaluation standards by enabling new and updated FSTD evaluation standards to be used for the initial qualification of an FSTD on a voluntary basis.

Revision	Description of Change	Effective Date
0	Original Draft.	04/11/2016

General Information

The following considerations should be reviewed prior to submitting an application to the FAA for a deviation from a specific section of part 60.

1. The applicant is, in fact, asking the FAA Administrator to revise current regulation, which in some cases may permit operation without meeting requirements of the current regulation.
2. The National Simulator Program (NSP) is the FAA focal point for coordination of requests for deviation from sections of part 60 only. Requests involving other parts of 14 CFR Chapter I, *Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation*, must be submitted, if permitted, in accordance with the focal point for those parts.
3. All requests for deviations will be processed in accordance with the policies and procedures in this guidance bulletin. Requests will be approved, conditionally approved, or denied by the National Simulator Program Manager (NSPM).
4. Where an applicant requests a deviation using an alternate FSTD evaluation standard, the FAA will only consider the most recent, published FSTD evaluation standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) or another National Aviation Authority (NAA) for equivalent FSTD levels as defined in the part 60 QPSⁱ.
5. Deviation requests using legacy standards or other superseded FSTD evaluation standards will not be considered or approved.

Submissions and Review Process

Requests for deviation from the part 60 QPS requirements must be submitted to the NSPM for processing as described below.

1. Requests will be accepted via hardcopy or through electronic means. FSTD sponsors and FSTD manufacturers should allow a minimum of 180 days before an initial FSTD evaluation for the review and processing of requests for deviation. While the FAA will make every effort to complete the review in a timely manner, all deviation requests are subject to prioritization-based FAA requirements.
2. The NSP will conduct a review of the deviation request and supporting material to determine if it adequately supports the issuance of a deviation. Any questions or deficiencies will be communicated directly to the applicant.
3. Approved deviations, along with any limitations and restrictions, will be issued to an FSTD sponsor or FSTD manufacturer in writing by the NSPM.
4. Subject to any limitations and restrictions, deviations that are granted for the initial qualification of an FSTD become part of the permanent qualification basis of the device as described in § 60.15. A copy of the approved deviation must be included in the

FSTD's Master Qualification Test Guide (MQTG) and will be referenced on the FSTD's Statement of Qualification (SOQ).

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this guidance bulletin can be directed to the National Simulator Program, AFS-205, at (404) 474-5620.

¹ The use of alternate FSTD evaluation standards issued by another NAA will typically limited to those that are recognized by the FAA under a bilateral aviation safety agreement