

Orlando Flight Standards District Office



Federal Aviation
Administration

AFS-650

Designee Quality Assurance Branch

Presented to: Orlando FSDO Pilot Examiners

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AFS-650 Designee Quality Assurance

AFS-650 organized in response to findings of testing improprieties associated with Designated Pilot Examiners and Designated Maintenance Examiners

Designee fraud or Designee incompetence has resulted in the certification of ineligible, unqualified, or improperly tested applicants

Investigations have resulted in **termination** of **multiple designees** and **criminal penalties** for **some designees**

Investigations have also triggered **44709 reexaminations** for **thousands** of pilots and mechanics



AFS-650 Designee Quality Assurance

AFS-650 emphasis to assure designee testing quality

Revised policy in FAA Orders 8900.1 and 8900.2

Analysis of data to identify possible designee impropriety

Special Emphasis Evaluation of Designees

Implementation of SEED Teams



AFS-650 Designee Quality Assurance

SEED Team Inspections

- **Pre-analysis of data associated with designee by AFS-650**
 - Higher than average number of tests conducted
 - More than 2 tests per day
 - High pass rate
 - IACRA “irregularities”
 - Allegations of inappropriate testing activity
 - Association with schools as “on staff examiner”
- **SEED Team consists of AFS-650 and Regional Personnel**
 - Local FSDO must support SEED Team but not notified of inspection until arrival of Team
 - Comprehensive review of FSDO designee records
 - Structured interviews of recently tested airmen
 - Observation of testing performed by the designee
 - Information gathering from recommending instructors
 - Information gathering from other aviation community sources
 - Information gathering from public sources
 - Information gathering from Air Traffic Control personnel
 - Information gathering from other government sources if criminal activity suspected



AFS-650 Designee Quality Assurance

SEED Team Inspection *Survival*

- **Assure applicant eligibility**
- **Assure aircraft airworthiness**
- **Conduct thorough pre-test briefing**
- **Utilize fully developed Plan of Action with briefings and scenarios included**
- **Conduct complete and comprehensive oral portion of practical test**
- **Conduct thorough pre-flight briefing**
- **Conduct pre-flight inspection of aircraft with applicant**
- **Conduct complete and comprehensive flight portion of practical test**
- **Always require full feather shut-downs and restarts on multiengine tests**
- **Do not assist applicant during practical test**
- **Do not teach during practical test**
- **Do not allow applicant to repeat any task during practical test**
- **Strictly apply PTS requirements**
- **Conduct thorough post-test de-brief with applicant and recommending CFI**
- **Brief applicant and recommending CFI of FAA post-certification interviews**
- **Charge and accept only a reasonable fee**
- **Avoid IACRA “irregularities” to the greatest extent possible**



AFS-650 Designee Quality Assurance

Orlando FSDO

2014

SEED Team Inspection Results

- **SEED Team inspection of Orlando FSDO DPE Records identified no discrepancies**
- **Seed Team surveillance of Orlando FSDO DPE selected for “Special Emphasis Evaluation”, including observation of two complete practical tests, identified no discrepancies**
- **Inspection revealed that the AFS-60 SEED Data Analysis information was not actually relevant to the Orlando FSDO DPE selected for the evaluation**

