

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.61

National Policy

Effective Date:
01/06/09

Cancellation Date:
01/06/10

SUBJ: Surveillance of Aircrew Program Designees Affiliated With 14 CFR Part 121 Operators

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice clarifies the existing requirement to conduct annual surveillance of aircrew program designees (APD) under the National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines (NPG). It also details required actions for Flight Standards offices that are responsible for APDs.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is certificate-holding district office managers and principal operations inspectors who are responsible for APDs. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators may find this information at: <http://fsims.faa.gov>.

4. Background. As of December 2007, all Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 operators had completed the transition to the Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS). As carriers completed the transition from NPG-based oversight to ATOS, certificate management teams terminated any remaining NPG required surveillance items (R-items).

a. According to current guidance in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1, Volume 13, Chapter 2, Section 3, Aircrew Program Designees (APDs) and Designated Flight Engineers in an Aircrew Designated Examiner (ADE) Program, APDs must receive an annual inspection, recorded under Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) activity code 1672. The NPG currently reflects this requirement.

b. There is some confusion regarding the continued requirement to conduct the 1672 inspection once a carrier has made the transition to ATOS. Under ATOS, Element 4.2.10 Aircrew Designated Examiner (ADE) Program, contains several Job Task Items (JTIs) related to oversight of APDs. As a result, some inspectors have terminated the 1672 R-items, believing that Element 4.2.10 of ATOS covers oversight of APDs.

c. This termination is incorrect, as Element 4.2.10 does not provide adequate oversight of APDs. While the Element Performance Inspection for Element 4.2.10 instructs inspectors to

verify that APDs were observed in the past year, it does not instruct them to perform those observations. Although the APDs are affiliated with part 121 operators, the 1672 inspection is a 14 CFR part 183 inspection of the airman, not an inspection of the part 121 operator. As a result, these inspections must still be completed in accordance with NPG requirements and recorded in PTRS.

d. In addition to the incorrect termination of 1672 R-items, a separate issue arose during the creation of fiscal year 2009 (FY09) R-items by the Regional Automated Modular Planning Software (RAMPS). When generating R-items for FY09, the required inspections for activity code 1672 were omitted for APDs affiliated with a number of ATOS operators. As a result, many FY09 R-items for APD surveillance were not generated. This problem has been addressed and the software will correctly generate these activities for FY10 work programs. Corrective action is still necessary to create the omitted NPG R-items for FY09.

5. Action.

a. In order to ensure that all APDs receive the required surveillance for FY09, a 1672 activity will be placed in the Planning Module for each active APD, with the following exceptions:

(1) If the RAMPS algorithm already created a 1672 FY09 R-item for a given APD, an additional activity will not be placed in the RAMPS Planning Module.

(2) Also, if a 1672 inspection has already been completed in FY09 for a given APD, either as a P-item or as unplanned surveillance, an additional activity will not be placed in the Planning Module.

b. Activities will be placed in the Planning Module by January 14, 2009. Offices with oversight responsibility for APDs are instructed to use the Administrative Tool in the Flight Standards Automation System to generate R-items for activities placed in the Planning Module. Inspectors must complete the inspections in accordance with applicable guidance.

6. Disposition. This notice will not be incorporated into FSIMS. Direct questions concerning this notice to Dave Gilliom, Manager, AFS-900 at (703) 661-0550.

ORIGINAL SIGNED by

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