

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.439

National Policy

Effective Date:
10/19/17

Cancellation Date:
10/19/18

SUBJ: Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice announces the availability and required completion of the Safety Assurance System (SAS) Custom Data Collection Tool (C DCT) titled, “Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records.”

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is principal operations inspectors (POI) responsible for the oversight and approval of check pilots and check Flight Engineers (FE) in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121. The secondary audience includes other aviation safety inspectors (ASI) (operations) and other Flight Standards personnel.

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) website at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Applicability. This notice is applicable to POIs responsible for the oversight and approval of check pilots and check FEs for the following 14 CFR parts:

- Part 121 air carriers that train and qualify flightcrew members in accordance with part 121 subparts N and O;
- Part 121 air carriers that train and qualify flightcrew members in accordance with part 121 subpart Y;
- Part 135 air carriers/operators that are required by part 135, § 135.3(b) to train and qualify flightcrew members in accordance with part 121 subparts N and O; and
- Part 135 air carriers/operators authorized in accordance with § 135.3(c) to train and qualify flightcrew members in accordance with part 121 subparts N and O.

5. Background.

a. Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit Report. On May 31, 2017, the OIG issued a report titled, “FAA Has Not Ensured All Check Pilots Meet Training and Observation Requirements.” The report contained several

recommendations, including recommendation 5, in which the OIG recommended that the FAA “modify requirements within the risk-based oversight tool (SAS) for inspectors to ensure a sufficient number of check pilot records are evaluated to assess the accuracy of air carrier training.”

b. FAA Response to Recommendation 5. In response to recommendation 5, the FAA stated that a risk-based surveillance system does not have a “sufficient number” of events, and to create such a number of events to conduct annually would be contrary to a risk-based model. However, the FAA did agree to perform further analysis to validate its risk-based oversight processes. Part of this analysis is the action required by this notice.

6. Action.

a. Review Records. Within 60 calendar-days of the publication of this notice, POIs must use the Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records C DCT to direct a review of a representative sample of the assigned certificate holder’s check pilot/check FE records. A representative sample should include at least the following, as applicable to the certificate holder:

- Check pilots/check FEs originally approved within the preceding 24 calendar-months;
- Check pilots/check FEs originally approved more than 24 calendar-months ago;
- Check pilots/check FEs for each aircraft type that the certificate holder operates; and
- Check pilots/check FEs in each of the six classifications.

Note: The six classifications are: Proficiency Check Pilot–Aircraft, Proficiency Check Pilot–Simulator, Line Check Pilot–All Seats, Line Check Pilot–Observer’s Seat Only, Check Pilot–All Checks, and Check FE. Refer to FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 20, Section 1, Safety Assurance System: General—Part 121 and 125 Certificate Holders, for more information on the six classifications.

b. Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records C DCT.

(1) POIs will load the C DCT template using the following steps:

- (a) From the SAS menu, under “Create DCTs,” select “Custom DCT.”
- (b) Select “CH/A,” then select the “OP” Specialty radio button and “Performance” for Question Type (leave the title blank; it will auto-populate with the template title).
- (c) Select “Requires Own Assessment.”
- (d) Select the “Search/Add Questions” button.
- (e) In “Apply from Templates,” select the radio button “Yes – National/Regional.”
- (f) Click on the “Select Template” dropdown menu and select the Performance Assessment (PA) “Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records” template.
- (g) Select “Search.”

(h) Select “Add Questions.”

(i) Select “Close.”

(j) Select “Send to Planning.” The National/Regional (NR) C DCT will appear on the Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP).

(k) If multiple assessments are created, repeat steps (a) through (j) for the assessment titled, “Part 121 Check Pilot and Check Flight Engineer Records.”

(2) Once loaded, POIs (or assigned ASIs) will document their assessment by answering the questions in the C DCT. Enter “N8900.439” in the “Local/Regional/National” field under the “Enter Common Data Fields” tab for each C DCT.

(3) After the C DCTs are completed, the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200) will query the data in SAS.

7. Disposition. We will not incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to AFS-200 at 202-267-8166.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Barbagallo". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Barbagallo

Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service