

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.530

National Policy

Effective Date:
11/15/19

Cancellation Date:
11/15/20

SUBJ: Aviation Safety Inspector Training to Conduct a Practical Test for an Aircraft Type Rating

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice clarifies the training requirements for an aviation safety inspector (ASI) (Operations) to conduct a practical test for an aircraft type rating. This notice applies to both Flight Standards Service (FS) Air Carrier and General Aviation Safety Assurance offices' ASIs (Operations).

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is ASIs (Operations) in the Safety Assurance offices and Safety Standards offices who conduct practical tests for an aircraft type rating. The secondary audience includes Foundational Business offices.

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. Background. FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 4, Inspector Training Requirements to Perform Job Functions, provides system-level policy on ASI training required to perform job functions. Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, Aviation Safety Inspector (Operations) Qualifications and Status, provides specific policy on ASI training required to perform pilot certification job functions. Although similar, the two sections do not consistently describe the prerequisites for performing this work, which may lead to confusion regarding the necessary training for an ASI (Operations) to conduct practical tests resulting in the issuance of an aircraft type rating.

a. Specifically, Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 4, subparagraph 1-218B, states the following conditions must be met in order for an ASI to be considered qualified to perform specific job functions without supervision:

- Satisfactory completion of basic indoctrination training.
- Additional FAA-programmed and specialty training (as applicable).

- Satisfactory completion of an FAA Academy or out-of-agency training (OAT) course on that job function, if required.
- Satisfactory completion of all on-the-job training (OJT) requirements for that job function, in accordance with FAA Order 3140.20, Flight Standards Service National Training Program.

b. Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, subparagraph 5-27A, further amends the requirements listed in Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 4, paragraph 1-218 for conducting practical tests by stating one of the following conditions must be met in order for an ASI (Operations) to be considered qualified to perform this job function without supervision:

- Satisfactory completion of an FAA Academy or out-of-agency course on that job function;
- Satisfactory completion of all OJT requirements for that job function, in accordance with Order 3140.20; or
- Specific written authorization from the Flight Standards Service Regulatory Support Division,¹ as appropriate.

(1) FS discovered an error in Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, subparagraph 5-27A, which would allow an ASI (Operations) to conduct a practical test while only completing an FAA Academy or out-of-agency course on that job function. This would not ensure the validation of competence by the ASI's Front Line Manager (FLM) required by the OJT program, nor would it require completion of the OJT program, which is a requirement for performing all job functions, not just conducting practical tests.

(2) The FS OJT program is designed to ensure that each ASI is qualified to perform the specific task and progresses through three successive levels: understanding, observation, and demonstration. The OJT program must be completed in accordance with Order 3140.20. ASIs who complete OJT have been found to be competent to conduct the specific task. The OJT program allows for variations in individual experience, differences in new-hire training that occur between specialties, and experience gained over time in the position. For example, there are many ASIs who enter duty with FS that possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct practical tests. These ASIs may be granted equivalent credit for Level 1 and/or Level 2 OJT as outlined in Order 3140.20; a demonstration of competence by the ASI (OJT Level 3) is required in all cases.

5. Required Training.

a. The training which must be completed in order for an ASI to be considered qualified to perform specific job functions without supervision is prescribed in Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 4, subparagraph 1-218B. For clarity, the training required to conduct a practical test that results in the issuance of an aircraft type rating is:

¹ The authorization from the Regulatory Support Division mentioned in this section is only relevant to the additional requirement to hold a type rating in an aircraft to conduct a practical test in that aircraft. This is commonly referred to as a "best qualified LOA."

- Satisfactory completion of basic indoctrination training (applicable to the ASIs assigned specialty).
- Satisfactory completion of all OJT requirements for that job function, in accordance with Order 3140.20.

Note: The other requirements of subparagraph 1-218B are not applicable specifically related to requirements to conduct a practical test resulting in an aircraft type rating, but may be required for other job functions.

b. In completing OJT (see paragraph 6), a qualified OJT trainer must approve the completion of each level of OJT, and the ASI's FLM must approve the final OJT completion. Satisfactory completion of OJT indicates that competence in the task has been demonstrated to the established standards in Order 8900.1. The qualified OJT trainer and the ASI's FLM support the ASI's learning and may refer them to additional training while considering the ASI's previous industry and FAA training and experience.

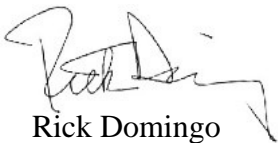
c. Air Carrier Operations ASIs do not receive formal training during their basic indoctrination training relating to conducting practical tests for an aircraft type rating, but may enroll in any course that provides training on this subject as an elective, if needed.

6. Applicable OJT. To conduct a practical test for an aircraft type rating, an ASI (Operations) must have completed the applicable OJT as follows:

a. To conduct a practical test for an aircraft type rating, the ASI (Operations) must have completed the OJT applicable to their specialty: either Air Transportation (AT) Job Task Analysis (JTA) 3.1.6 (OP), Issue an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate or Type Rating; General Aviation (GA) JTA 3.1.6 (OP), Certificate an Airline Transport Pilot Under 14 CFR Part 61; or GA JTA 3.1.13 (OP), Issue Additional Aircraft Ratings Under 14 CFR § 61.63.

b. To conduct a practical test for an aircraft type rating during the conduct of a Flight Standardization Board (FSB), the ASI (Operations) must have completed JTA 4.1.202 (OP), Conduct a Flight Standardization Board (FSB) Evaluation.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to the General Aviation and Commercial Division at 202-267-1100.



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