

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.593

National Policy

Effective Date:
8/20/21

Cancellation Date:
8/20/22

SUBJ: Part 141 Pilot School Examining Authority Issued for § 141.57 Special Curricula or § 141.55(d) Reduced Hour Courses

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance to Flight Standards Service (FS) Principal Operations Inspectors (POI) with oversight of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 141 pilot schools to conduct audits of all part 141 training courses approved with examining authority to ensure that they meet the requirements of part 141, § 141.63.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) and POIs assigned oversight of certificate holders (CH) conducting operations under part 141. The secondary audience includes other FS Safety Assurance, Safety Standards, and 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 <https://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the FAA's website at <https://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. During a review of a sampling of issued Letters of Authorization (LOA) B005, Approved Training Course Outlines; B006, Approved Syllabuses; and B007, Examining Authority, the FAA discovered multiple training courses that were approved with examining authority contrary to regulatory requirements. Specifically, the FAA discovered special curriculum courses approved under § 141.57 and reduced hour curricula approved under § 141.55(d) that were also listed in LOA B007. These curricula do not meet the qualification requirements in part 141 subpart D for examining authority. An example of this is a combined instrument rating/commercial pilot course that has been approved under § 141.57 and has been granted examining authority under § 141.63.

5. Guidance. In order for a part 141 pilot school to receive examining authority approval, § 141.63(a)(2) requires a school to hold a certificate and rating issued under part 141. In addition, § 141.63(a)(3) requires that the school must have held the rating in which examining authority is sought for at least 24 consecutive months preceding the month of application for examining authority. Special curricula training courses are not a certificate or rating issued under

§ 141.11(b)(1); therefore, they are not eligible for examining authority. Further, as stated in § 141.55(d), a pilot school may not hold examining authority for a training course that is approved without meeting the minimum ground and flight training time requirements of part 141 (reduced hour course). The courses listed in part 141 appendices A through J are the only ones that may qualify for examining authority.

6. Action. POIs (authority may be delegated to an assistant POI) must conduct audits of all part 141 training courses approved with examining authority to ensure that they meet the requirements of § 141.63. Inspectors who identify a training course that was approved incorrectly with examining authority must initiate a compliance action to remove approval of the examining authority for that training course. Since the FAA granted the approval, the POI should work with the school to minimize the interruptions for students currently enrolled in the training course, and bring the training course into compliance. If the part 141 pilot school would like to maintain examining authority for the training course, it will need to submit a new training course outline (TCO) that meets the certificate or rating requirements found in part 141 appendices A through J. Additionally, the pilot school will need to demonstrate that the training course qualifies for examining authority in accordance with § 141.63. If the pilot school does not wish to maintain examining authority for the identified training course, the school should request by letter to remove examining authority for this training course. No further enrollment should be authorized for the training courses found not to be in compliance with part 141 regulations.

a. Review Issued LOAs in the Web-Based Operations Safety System (WebOPSS). POIs must update/verify the accuracy of LOAs B005, B006, and B007 in accordance with FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 3, Chapter 18, Section 14, Safety Assurance System: Parts A, B, and D Letters of Authorization for Part 141 Pilot Schools.

b. Education. General Aviation (GA) Operations aviation safety inspectors (ASI) who have not taken the Pilot School Certification (22101) course after October 2020 should consider enrolling in this course, as the revised course covers the requirements of examining authority and special curriculum courses in more detail.

c. Safety Assurance System (SAS) Activity Recording (AR) Input. Within 90 days of the effective date of this notice, POIs must make a 1380 activity code entry in SAS AR for each of their assigned part 141 pilot schools with examining authority to record accomplishment of the certificate management actions directed in paragraph 6. In the “National Use” field, enter “N8900.593.” Any audit that results in a finding of regulatory noncompliance needs to trigger an activity code 1370 and notification to the pilot school of the required change. Document the amendments to the TCO in the activity code 1370 entry. The pilot school should submit its TCO revision or request by letter to remove examining authority for the training course within 60 days from the notification of the regulatory noncompliance.

d. SAS Surveillance and Followup Action. The POI must determine if additional surveillance is required or further action is necessary to address the potential increased risk to safety. Possible additional actions may include retargeting the Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP) to include accomplishing appropriate Design Assessments (DA) or Performance Assessments (PA), convening a System Analysis Team (SAT), or reevaluating pilot school training course approvals.

7. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the General Aviation and Commercial Division, Training and Certification Group (AFS-810) at 202-267-1100.



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