

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.661

National Policy

Effective Date:
6/20/23

Cancellation Date:
6/20/24

SUBJ: Qualification and Currency Requirements for an Operations ASI to Perform Job Functions in a Robinson Helicopter Company R-22 or R-44 Helicopter

1. Purpose of This Notice. This is a special-emphasis notice. This notice provides revised policy and guidance to aviation safety inspectors (ASI) concerning the qualification and currency requirements for performing specific job functions in a Robinson Helicopter Company R-22 or R-44 helicopter. It is the intent of this notice to update these requirements and to ensure uniform application of this policy, as was originally intended. This notice updates policy published in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6, Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Overview, Figure 1-2, Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Requirements Matrix, dated June 10, 2019.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is personnel performing certification, surveillance, evaluation, and observation job functions in a Robinson Helicopter Company R-22 or R-44 helicopter. The other primary audience is the Flight Standards (FS) Safety Assurance and Safety Standards offices. The secondary audience includes the 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 and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at <https://drs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice on the FAA's website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices and DRS.

4. Background.

a. On October 2, 2016, the then Director of the Flight Standards Service (AFS-1) transferred the FS Flight Program Flight Operations Manual (FOM) and all related manuals and technical documents to the FAA Flight Program Executive (AJW-3). However, FS still retains sole responsibility for assignment of FS personnel into, removal from, and changes to assignments in the FAA Flight Program, including personnel from the FAA Academy. FS also retains responsibility for all policy related to qualifications for FS personnel to perform job functions in an aircraft, full flight simulator (FFS), or flight training device (FTD).

b. On October 4, 2018, the FAA published Change 626 to Order 8900.1, which included the addition of Note (13) to Figure 1-2 in Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6. Note (13) changed the specific Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 73 pilot and flight instructor

qualifications needed for an Operations ASI to conduct job functions in a Robinson Helicopter Company R-22 or R-44 helicopter.

c. This notice clarifies the training, aeronautical experience, flight review, and endorsements required to perform certification job functions and evaluation job functions. It further clarifies the requirements for inspectors with access to the flight controls and for evaluations/observations from the observer seat.

5. Changes to Order 8900.1. Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6, Figure 1-2, Note (13) is being revised as follows:

(13) Performing job functions in a Robinson Helicopter Company R-22 or R-44 helicopter:

Certification or evaluation job functions (rows 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7):

- **With or without access to flight controls:** The ASI must meet the applicable pilot in command (PIC) and flight instructor requirements listed in SFAR No. 73, Section 2, paragraph (a); paragraph (b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(5); and paragraph (c) for the model of Robinson Helicopter Company helicopter used, including awareness training, aeronautical experience, flight review, and endorsements.

Evaluations or observation job functions (rows 3, 4, 10 through 16, and 18):

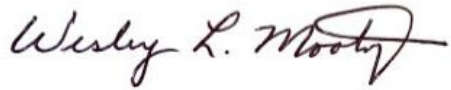
- **With access to the flight controls (rows 3 and 18):** The ASI must meet the applicable PIC requirements listed in SFAR No. 73, Section 2, paragraph (a); paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2); and paragraph (c) for the model of Robinson Helicopter Company helicopter used, including awareness training, aeronautical experience, flight review, and endorsements.
- **Without access to the flight controls (rows 4, 10 through 16, and 18):** Compliance with SFAR No. 73 is not required.

For all job functions (rows 1 through 7, 10 through 16, and 18):

- **Acting as PIC regardless of seat position and whether or not there is access to the flight controls:** The ASI must meet the applicable PIC and flight instructor requirements in SFAR No. 73, Section 2, paragraph (a); paragraph (b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(5); and paragraph (c) for the model of Robinson Helicopter Company helicopter used, including awareness training, aeronautical experience, flight review, and endorsements.
- **Currency requirements of SFAR No. 73, Section 2, paragraph (d):** The currency requirements for carrying passengers do not apply.

Note: Note (13) is not applicable to rows 8 and 9 because there are no Training Center Evaluators (TCE) or Aircrew Program Designees (APD) for these helicopters, or to rows 17 and 19 because an ASI does not perform these job functions in the aircraft.

6. 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 Training and Certification Group (AFS-810) at 9-AFS-800-Correspondence@faa.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley L. Mooty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W'.

Wesley L. Mooty
Acting Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service