What are the requirements for the third flight crewmember designated on the type certificate data sheet (TCDS) for the CH-47D? I am asking because two different Flight Standards offices have given me two different answers. On January 5, 2015, I spoke with the ABC Flight Standards office, Inspector Johnson, and was told the third flight crewmember had to be a pilot. Unsure of what training is required for this pilot I reached out to the DEF Flight Standards office, Inspector Smith, and asked the same question. He said he was unsure of the requirements to occupy the third flight crewmember position.

On July 22, 2014, my company, ABC Flying Service, was issued a type certificate (TC) approval for the CH-47D rotorcraft in the restricted category. The TC is applicable to ex-military CH-47Ds. Based on the “Pilot Certificate Aircraft Type Designations – Helicopter” table in Order 8900.1, volume 5, chapter 2, section 19, paragraph 5-734, the CH-47D corresponds to the BV-234. The model 234 TC is for standard category aircraft and requires a minimum crew of pilot and copilot. The TCDSs for the restricted category CH-47D specified a minimum crew of pilot, copilot, and flight crewmember.

The qualifications required for the flight crewmember are not stated in the TCDS. “Flightcrew member” is defined in 14 CFR part 1 as “a pilot, flight engineer, or flight navigator assigned to duty in an aircraft during flight time.” “Crewmember” is defined in 14 CFR part 1 as “a person assigned to perform duty in an aircraft during flight time.” There is no flight engineer rating for helicopters under 14 CFR part 63.