



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Washington, D.C. 20594

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**Attachment 17 – FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6: Operations Inspector
Qualifications and Currency Overview**

OPERATIONAL FACTORS/HUMAN PERFORMANCE

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VOLUME 1 GENERAL INSPECTOR GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

CHAPTER 3 INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES, ADMINISTRATION, ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Section 6 Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Overview

1-260 OBJECTIVE. This section contains the qualification and currency requirements applicable to Operations inspectors conducting certification and surveillance of flight-related functions.

1-261 BACKGROUND. This section was developed to consolidate information to easily identify qualification and currency requirements for inspectors in the performance of the Operations inspector job functions. The section does not include all inspector job functions. Inspectors may also find qualification requirements in Order 8900.1 sections that address the particular job function. With the development and future amendment of this section, duplicate information will be removed from the respective sections and consolidated in the matrix found within this section. Until all information has been included in the matrix and removed from the respective sections, Operations inspector qualification requirements will be based on the section with the most recent amendment date.

1-262 CREWMEMBER STATUS—TRAINING AND CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS. The Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Requirements Matrix (Figure 1-2) was developed to reference qualification and currency requirements the inspector must meet to conduct specified job functions. Each row of Figure 1-2 represents a job function, and the columns represent the qualifications. Figure 1-2 includes references to Order 8900.1 where applicable guidance information is available. Inspectors must also refer to the AFS Participant Flight Operations Manual (FOM) details related to qualifications and currency.

1-263 RISK MANAGEMENT FOR INSPECTOR JOB FUNCTIONS IN FLIGHT. The flight-related job functions required of an inspector will vary widely in complexity and associated risk. In order to manage the risk associated with job tasks involving a flight, the inspector must follow the Flight Standards Service risk assessment policy for job functions involving flight. For all flights, inspectors must identify risk and apply mitigations to minimize risk.

Figure 1-2. Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Requirements Matrix

Policy Division(s)	Job Function (Note 13)	Medical Required (Note 1)	Category/ Class Rating	Type Rating in Subject Aircraft	12 Month Formal Training (Note 2)	24 Month Formal Training in Category (Note 3)	EBC Current (Note 4)
1 AFS-800	Part 61 pilot certification practical test as a required crewmember, including safety pilot. (See Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, paragraphs 5-27, 5-29, and 5-30.)	2 nd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 AFS-800	Part 61 pilot certification practical test from observer seat. (See Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, paragraphs 5-27, 5-29, and 5-30.)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3 AFS-200/ AFS-800	Part 91K/121/125/135/141/142 competency/proficiency check as a required crewmember, including safety pilot. (See Volume 3, Chapter 19, Section 7, paragraph 3-1282 and Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 2, paragraphs 5-27 and 5-32, parts 91K, 121, 125 and 135 only.)	2 nd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Note 6)
4 AFS-200/ AFS-800	Part 91K/121/125/135/141/142 competency/proficiency check from observer seat. (See Volume 3, Chapter 19, Section 7, paragraph 3-1282.)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (Note 6)

Policy Division(s)	Job Function (Note 13)	Medical Required (Note 1)	Category/ Class Rating	Type Rating in Subject Aircraft	12 Month Formal Training (Note 2)	24 Month Formal Training in Category (Note 3)	EBC Current (Note 4)
5 AFS-800	Special medical test (flight). (See Volume 5, Chapter 8, Section 1, paragraph 5-1526.)	2 nd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 AFS-800	Title 49 U.S.C. § 44709 reexamination. (See Volume 5, Chapter 7, Section 1, paragraph 5-1422.)	2 nd (Note 7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7 AFS-200/ AFS-600/ AFS-800	Original/ongoing part 183 evaluation as a required crewmember, including safety pilot. (See Volume 13, Chapter 6, Section 1, subparagraph 13-517B.)	2 nd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 AFS-200/ AFS-600	Original part 183 evaluation (TCE/APD) from observer seat. (See Volume 13, Chapter 1.)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes per MOU
9 AFS-200/ AFS-600	Ongoing part 183 evaluation (TCE/APD) from observer seat. (See Volume 13, Chapter 1.)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes per MOU (Note 8)
10 AFS-600/ AFS-800	Original part 183 evaluation (DPE) from observer seat. (See Volume 13, Chapter 6, Section 1, subparagraph 13-517B.)	No	Yes	Yes (Note 10)	No	No	No

Policy Division(s)	Job Function (Note 13)	Medical Required (Note 1)	Category/ Class Rating	Type Rating in Subject Aircraft	12 Month Formal Training (Note 2)	24 Month Formal Training in Category (Note 3)	EBC Current (Note 4)
11 AFS-600/ AFS-800	Ongoing part 183 evaluation (DPE) from observer seat. (See Volume 13, Chapter 6, Section 1, subparagraph 13-517B.)	No	Yes	Yes (Note 10)	No	No	No
12 AFS-200	Part 121/135 line check from observer seat. (See Volume 3, Chapter 19, Section 13, subparagraph 3-19-13-3B.)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
13 AFS-200/ AFS-800	Part 91K/121/125/135 check airman/check pilot observation from observer seat (initial).	No	Yes	(Note 9)	No	No	No
14 AFS-200	Part 91K/121/125/135 check airman/check pilot observation from observer seat (ongoing).	No	Yes	(Note 9)	No	No	No
15 AFS-200/ AFS-800	Part 91K/121/135 flight instructor observation from observer seat. (See Volume 3, Chapter 20, Section 2.)	No	Yes	(Note 9)	No	No	No
16 AFS-200/ AFS-800	Part 91K/121/125/135 proving or validation tests when the qualified Operations inspector occupies an observer seat.	No	Yes	(Note 12)	(Note 12)	(Note 12)	(Note 12)
17 AFS-800	Part 133 observation from the ground.	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

Policy Division(s)	Job Function (Note 13)	Medical Required (Note 1)	Category/ Class Rating	Type Rating in Subject Aircraft	12 Month Formal Training (Note 2)	24 Month Formal Training in Category (Note 3)	EBC Current (Note 4)
18 AFS-800	Part 133 observation in aircraft.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19 AFS-800	Part 137 chief supervisor observation.	No	Yes (Note 14)	No	No	No	No

Notes for Figure 1-2, Operations Inspector Qualifications and Currency Requirements Matrix:

(1) Inspectors conducting certification (pilot evaluating, testing, and checking) job functions as a required crewmember, including safety pilot, must hold a second-class medical certificate.

(2) Inspectors assigned to only one aircraft requiring a type rating must complete formal training in that aircraft every 12 months. Inspectors assigned to two aircraft of the same category requiring a type rating must complete formal training every 12 months, alternating between the two aircraft.

All inspectors assigned to Group I and Group II helicopters must maintain event-based currency (EBC) in both Group I and Group II helicopters. Inspectors assigned only to Group I helicopters must complete formal training every 12 months.

Groups are defined in the AFS Participant Flight Operations Manual (FOM), chapter 4, available in the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS).

(3) For gyroplane, lighter-than-air, glider, weight-shift, and powered parachute, a Flight Standards Flight Program check recorded on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Form 4040-2, FAA Crewmember Check Record, may substitute for formal training, unless an agency-funded formal course exists.

(4) In order to be EBC current, the inspector must have completed the required tasks and flight program requirements. EBC current does not refer to qualifications including formal training and medical certification.

(5) Note deleted from previous version of this table.

(6) An inspector must complete all required non-Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) tasks in the FOM chapter 4, Table 4-19 (not otherwise completed under the MOU), prior to conducting certification (pilot evaluating, testing, and checking) job functions outside the MOU.

(7) If the Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.) § 44709 reexamination is conducted in a flight simulation training device (FSTD), the inspector is not required to hold a valid second-class medical certificate at the time of the reexamination.

(8) EBC currency is not required in the subject aircraft. However, EBC currency is required in at least one EBC assignment in the same category and class.

(9) The inspector must be qualified in the category and class, and hold a type rating if the aircraft to be used is a type-rated aircraft, but does not need to hold a type rating in the subject aircraft. An inspector must be type-rated in an airplane that has a passenger capacity of 30 seats or more, or a payload capacity of more than 7,500 pounds, to conduct the observation in an airplane of these capacities. The inspector would need to hold an airplane type rating to do airplane job functions requiring a type rating, or a helicopter type rating to do helicopter job functions requiring a type rating, but would not have to hold the type rating in the specific make/model for which the observation/job function occurs.

(10) Only required if a type rating exists for the subject aircraft in Figure 5-88, listed at <https://registry.faa.gov/TypeRatings/> and referred to in Volume 5, Chapter 2, Section 19.

(11) Note deleted from previous version of this table.

(12) See Volume 3, Chapter 29, Section 5, Subparagraph 3-2381A1), Qualified Operations Inspector.

(13) Evaluations or observations utilizing Robinson helicopters:

- With access to flight controls: aviation safety inspectors (ASI) must comply with the applicable Special Federal Aviation Regulations (SFAR) 73 pilot-in-command (PIC) requirements.
- Without access to flight controls: No compliance with SFAR 73 required.

(14) Observations of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 137 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations can be accomplished by any General Aviation Operations (GAOP) inspector.

RESERVED. Paragraphs 1-264 through 1-279.