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**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**OPERATIONAL FACTORS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S FACTUAL REPORT  
ATTACHMENT 40: FAA ORDER 8400.10 GUIDANCE FOR CHECK  
AIRMEN CERTIFICATION**

**American Airlines flight 1420  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
June 1, 1999**

**DCA99MA060**

# **Attachment 40**

**to Operational Factors Group Chairman's Factual Report**

**DCA99MA060**

**FAA Order 8400.10 Guidance for Check Airman Certification**

**a medical certificate for instructors and check airmen in a simulator.**

- Have completed the operator's air transportation flight instructor and check airman qualification training programs required by FAR §§ 121.411, 121.413 and Appendix H, or by FAR §§ 135.337 and 135.339, as applicable, covering such topics as:
  - Check ride briefings and debriefings
    - for an applicant
    - for supporting crew members
    - for a safety pilot
  - Safety preparedness and countermeasures in an aircraft
    - in a flight simulator (such as emergency exits, fire and smoke procedures, and simulator motion failures)

- Meet training and currency requirements to serve as PIC for that operator, including ground and flight training, proficiency or competency checks, and 90-day landing currency

- Maintain line currency as a flightcrew member with the operator, or be line familiar with the operator's procedures and line operation by participating in a line observation program that has been approved by the operator's POI. (Refer to Advisory Circular (AC) 120-35, as amended, for a discussion of terms) A medical certificate appropriate to the crew position occupied on the line is required for those instructors and check airmen who maintain line currency.

- Satisfactorily demonstrate, initially and at least biennially, to an FAA inspector the ability to conduct proficiency or competency checks in an aircraft in flight or in a simulator, or in both, as appropriate. Initial evaluation shall include evaluation in an aircraft. Evaluation of an instructor in a simulator shall include the individual's ability to operate the simulator while instructing.

**B. Authorized Activities.** A classification of proficiency check airman - aircraft authorizes a check airman to conduct the following activities:

- Pilot proficiency or competency checks conducted as a qualification curriculum segment in the operator's approved training program, from either pilot seat in an aircraft in flight, or in a simulator, as appropriate.

- Flight instruction in the operator's approved training program, from either pilot seat in an aircraft in flight, or in a simulator, or both, as appropriate.
- Supervision of the re-establishment of landing currency
- Special checks conducted as a qualification curriculum segment of the operator's approved training program, provided the check airman is qualified in the specific activity for which the special check is being conducted (such as CAT II and CAT III operations)
- Certification of the satisfactory proficiency and knowledge of airmen after completion of a flight training curriculum segment or flight training module
- When authorized by the operator, ground instruction for airmen, and certification of the satisfactory completion by an airman of a ground training curriculum segment

**649. PROFICIENCY CHECK AIRMAN - SIMULATOR.**

**A. Eligibility.** To be eligible for initial and continuing approval as proficiency check airman - simulator, an airman must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold the required certificate and ratings to serve as PIC of the specific aircraft in revenue service
- Hold at least a valid third class medical certificate
- Have completed the operator's air transportation flight instructor and check airman qualification training programs as required by FAR §§ 121.411, 121.413 and Appendix H, or by FAR § 135.337 and FAR § 135.339, as applicable (The requirements of FAR § 121.413(c)(1) and FAR § 135.339(c)(1) may be accomplished entirely in a simulator), including such topics as:
  - Check ride briefings and debriefings
    - for an applicant
    - for supporting crew members
  - Safety preparedness and countermeasures in a flight simulator (such as emergency exits, fire and smoke procedures, and simulator motion failures)
- Meet the currency requirements to serve as PIC for the operator, including ground and flight



training and the required proficiency or competency checks. These requirements may be met by using a level B (or higher) flight simulator, in which case landing currency in the actual aircraft is not required. When the operator's training program includes single visit training under an exemption to FAR Part 121, or is approved for AQP, the instructor shall maintain currency as required by those programs.

- Maintain line currency as a flight deck crewmember with the operator, or be line familiar with the operator's procedures and line operation by participating in a line observation program that has been approved by the operator's POI. (Refer to AC 120-35, as amended, for a discussion of terms) A medical certificate appropriate to the crew position occupied on the line is required for those instructors and check airmen who maintain line currency.
- Satisfactorily demonstrate, initially and at least biennially, to an FAA inspector the ability to conduct proficiency or competency checks in simulated flight in a simulator. Part of the inspector's observation shall address the check airman's proficiency in evaluating an airman and operating the simulator simultaneously.

B. *Authorized Activities:* Approval as a proficiency check airman - simulator authorizes a check airman to conduct the following activities:

- Pilot proficiency or competency checks, as authorized, in an approved flight simulator or flight training device in a qualification curriculum segment in the operator's approved training program
- The simulator or training device segment, as authorized, of a two-segment proficiency or competency check, as a qualification curriculum segment of the operator's approved training program

**NOTE:** A two-segment check is one conducted partially in an approved training device or simulator and completed in flight in an aircraft.

- Flight instruction in a flight simulator or flight training device as a curriculum segment in the operator's approved training program
- Supervision of the re-establishment of landing currency
- Any special check as a module in the operator's approved training program, provided that the check airman is qualified in the specific

activity for which the special check is being conducted (such as CAT II and CAT III operations)

- Certification of the satisfactory proficiency and knowledge of airmen after completion of a flight training curriculum segment or flight training module
- When authorized by the operator, ground instruction for airmen and certification of the satisfactory completion of a ground training curriculum segment

#### 651. LINE CHECK AIRMAN - ALL SEATS (LEFT PILOT SEAT, RIGHT PILOT SEAT, AND OBSERVER'S SEAT).

A. *Eligibility.* For initial and continuing approval as a line check airman - all seats, an airman must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold the required certificate and ratings for the specific aircraft to serve as PIC in revenue service
- Hold a valid medical certificate equal to the class required to act as PIC in revenue service
- Meet training and currency requirements to serve as PIC, including line currency, ground and flight training, proficiency or competency checks, line checks, and 90-day landing currency (These requirements may be met entirely in a level B or higher simulator.)
- Have completed the operator's check airman qualification training program equivalent to that required by FAR §§ 121.411 and 121.413, or FAR §§ 135.337 and 135.339, as applicable, including such topics as :
  - Briefings and debriefings for the PIC for other crewmembers
  - Safety preparedness and countermeasures in an aircraft
- Satisfactorily demonstrate, initially and at least biennially, to an FAA inspector the ability to conduct line checks from a pilot seat or to oversee operating experience and other activities

B. *Authorized Activities.* Approval as a line check airman - all seats authorizes a check airman to conduct the following activities:

- Pilot line checks from either pilot seat or the observer's seat

training and the required proficiency or competency checks. These requirements may be met by using a level B (or higher) flight simulator, in which case landing currency in the actual aircraft is not required. When the operator's training program includes single visit training under an exemption to FAR Part 121, or is approved for AQP, the instructor shall maintain currency as required by those programs.

- Maintain line currency as a flight deck crew-member with the operator, or be line familiar with the operator's procedures and line operation by participating in a line observation program that has been approved by the operator's POI. (Refer to AC 120-35, as amended, for a discussion of terms) A medical certificate appropriate to the crew position occupied on the line is required for those instructors and check airmen who maintain line currency.
- Satisfactorily demonstrate, initially and at least biennially, to an FAA inspector the ability to conduct proficiency or competency checks in simulated flight in a simulator. Part of the inspector's observation shall address the check airman's proficiency in evaluating an airman and operating the simulator simultaneously.

B. *Authorized Activities:* Approval as a proficiency check airman - simulator authorizes a check airman to conduct the following activities:

- Pilot proficiency or competency checks, as authorized, in an approved flight simulator or flight training device in a qualification curriculum segment in the operator's approved training program
- The simulator or training device segment, as authorized, of a two-segment proficiency or competency check, as a qualification curriculum segment of the operator's approved training program

**NOTE:** A two-segment check is one conducted partially in an approved training device or simulator and completed in flight in an aircraft.

- Flight instruction in a flight simulator or flight training device as a curriculum segment in the operator's approved training program
- Supervision of the re-establishment of landing currency
- Any special check as a module in the operator's approved training program, provided that the check airman is qualified in the specific

activity for which the special check is being conducted (such as CAT II and CAT III operations)

- Certification of the satisfactory proficiency and knowledge of airmen after completion of a flight training curriculum segment or flight training module
- When authorized by the operator, ground instruction for airmen and certification of the satisfactory completion of a ground training curriculum segment

**651. LINE CHECK AIRMAN - ALL SEATS (LEFT PILOT SEAT, RIGHT PILOT SEAT, AND OBSERVER'S SEAT).**

A. *Eligibility.* For initial and continuing approval as a line check airman - all seats, an airman must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold the required certificate and ratings for the specific aircraft to serve as PIC in revenue service
- Hold a valid medical certificate equal to the class required to act as PIC in revenue service
- Meet training and currency requirements to serve as PIC, including line currency, ground and flight training, proficiency or competency checks, line checks, and 90-day landing currency (These requirements may be met entirely in a level B or higher simulator.)
- Have completed the operator's check airman qualification training program equivalent to that required by FAR §§ 121.411 and 121.413, or FAR §§ 135.337 and 135.339, as applicable, including such topics as :
  - Briefings and debriefings for the PIC for other crewmembers
  - Safety preparedness and countermeasures in an aircraft
- Satisfactorily demonstrate, initially and at least biennially, to an FAA inspector the ability to conduct line checks from a pilot seat or to oversee operating experience and other activities

B. *Authorized Activities.* Approval as a line check airman - all seats authorizes a check airman to conduct the following activities:

- Pilot line checks from either pilot seat or the observer's seat