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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Civil Air Regulations Amendment 40-2
Effective: March 15, 1957
Adopted: February 8, 1957

SCHEDULED INTERSTATE AIR CARRIER CERTIFICATION AND OPERATION RULES

TRAINING PROGRAMS AND PROFICIENCY CHECKS -
USE OF AIRCRAFT SIMULATORS

Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations currently requires certain pilot proficiency checks to be accomplished twice a year by each pilot serving as pilot in command in air carrier service. The objective of these checks is to insure that the pilot maintains a high standard of proficiency in the piloting and navigation of the airplane types to be flown by him. The proficiency checks must be given by an authorized representative of the Administrator of Civil Aeronautics or a check pilot of the carrier concerned. In addition to the normal airplane maneuvers, these checks include certain critical maneuvers which are encountered from time to time in air carrier service such as take-offs and landings with inoperative engines, missed approaches, instrument letdowns, and various emergency procedures.

The Administrator, with the approval of the Board, has for several years approved many maneuvers required in the proficiency checks to be accomplished in synthetic trainers which accurately simulate the flight characteristics and the performance of the aircraft, to which a pilot is assigned, through all ranges of normal and emergency operations. This approval has been based in part upon an air carrier's use of the synthetic trainer in its pilot training program, and the pilot's satisfactory demonstration in actual flight of ability to perform at least 4 basic maneuvers, as follows: Flight at minimum speeds, approach to lowest approved minimums, landing under circling approach conditions, and simulated engine failure(s) during take-off.

The Board foresees, however, that the increasing complexity of aircraft, with concomitant need for devices to simulate the flight characteristics of large modern transport aircraft, will be further accentuated as turbo-prop and turbo-jet aircraft are procured. As a result, more intensive training of pilots and crews will be necessary to insure that they are proficient in the operation of these larger and faster aircraft with their corresponding new operating problems, and this training can be accomplished only at considerably increased costs. In anticipation of this problem, certain carriers are preparing to acquire simulators before the aircraft are put into service. This action is predicated on the assumption that essential training can be conducted in part in aircraft simulators more effectively, safely, and economically than in an aircraft, and with considerable saving in time.

The fundamental characteristics of the aircraft simulators in use and under consideration should be made clear in order that interested persons will clearly understand the nature of the device the Board is discussing in this amendment. The Board has in mind that the aircraft simulator shall be a full scale mock-up of the cockpit interior of a particular type aircraft with normal crew stations, plus accommodations for necessary additional persons such as check airmen, instructors, or observers. It shall also include suitable course and altitude recorders. It shall be capable of accurately reproducing the engine and flight performance, control loading, instrument indication, and control movements of the specific model aircraft during the execution of all normal and anticipated emergency maneuvers. Of great importance is the requirement that the device shall be designed to permit presentation of malfunction of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, appliances, systems, and other components, and appropriate procedures to cope with such emergencies. Capabilities, as outlined above, will permit intensive training and checking in normal and abnormal flight conditions, various flight procedures, navigational problems, and essential crew coordination.

Accordingly, the Board published on June 13, 1956, (21 F.R. 4294) a notice of proposed rule making as Civil Air Regulations Draft Release No. 56-16 "Training Programs and Proficiency Checks (Use of Aircraft Simulators)" in which certain proposals were made with respect to the use of aircraft simulators. The Board indicated that it was of the opinion that the advantages of the trainers were so apparent that their controlled introduction into air carrier training procedures on a wider basis was in the public interest and should be encouraged. In summary, the Board found that aircraft simulators have been proven as a valuable aid in improving the effectiveness of pilot training for instrument and equipment proficiency. The promise of further improvement in training is, in fact, so great that it appears desirable to reduce the number of in-flight proficiency checks that pilots are required to take. Simulators are particularly suited to instruction in and practice of numerous emergency procedures which cannot satisfactorily be accomplished in flight, and permit special emphasis on the coordination of crew duties; they offer a laboratory for experimentation in techniques and procedures which might be time-consuming or hazardous in flight; they will permit training to be conducted with more safety as a result of the reduction of frequency of aircraft operations under simulated emergency conditions; their use will result in the reduction of traffic congestion and noise in large terminal areas; and they will reduce substantially the total cost of pilot training programs.

The Board also indicated that, in determining the most appropriate method to realize the full possibilities of aircraft simulators, it could not lose cognizance of its responsibility to assure the highest degree of safety in air transportation even while taking this opportunity to encourage sound technical and economic development of air carrier operations. It is the Board's opinion, therefore, that the broadened use of aircraft simulators in air carrier training programs should be permitted in accordance with these basic principles:

A. The use of simulators shall be permissive with the air carriers.

B. The air carrier shall be required to show that the aircraft simulator meets prescribed standards and shall establish within its training program an approved course of training in such an aircraft simulator. It is anticipated that the training shall consist of at least several hours covering all items currently contained in the flight proficiency checks.

C. When a pilot in command satisfactorily completes each 12 months an approved course of training in an aircraft simulator which the air carrier shows meets the prescribed standards, each such pilot need accomplish only one proficiency check in flight each 12 months.

D. The Board shall review the experience gained under these regulations to determine the effectiveness of the procedures permitted thereby.

In response to Draft Release No. 56-16, the Board received from interested persons comment favorable to the Board's basic objective of permitting broadened use of aircraft simulators by air carriers. There was, however, some diversity of opinion with respect to the specific proposals to amend the operating parts. In the Board's proposal the major change from current practice was to substitute an approved simulator course for one of the two proficiency checks required to be accomplished in flight annually. Certain air carrier spokesmen indicated that they considered this an improper mixing of the training and checking functions, and stated that the regulation should simply permit the accomplishment of one of the required checks in a simulator. Furthermore, these persons also considered that it was not necessary for the Administrator to approve a particular portion of an air carrier's training program (i.e., simulator curriculum). On the other hand, pilot spokesmen expressed concern that successful utilization of aircraft simulators would be realized only through very close supervision by the Administrator, with review by the pilots, of procedures and qualifications of instructors and check personnel.

In Draft Release No. 56-16, the Board also asked for separate comment with respect to the desirability of including in the Civil Air Regulations certain specific standards for aircraft simulator equipment (Draft Release No. 56-16, Appendix A) which would be used as a basis for approval by the Administrator.

The Board has carefully studied the various views presented and is of the opinion that, at least in the initial stages of expanded simulator use by air carriers, the Administrator should approve the aircraft simulator training program of each air carrier. This procedure will be consistent with the present policy whereby the Administrator makes rules, compliance with which is mandatory, for the conduct of the proficiency checks required by the Civil Air Regulations. The Board will, however, review the experience gained under this regulation and propose any changes which, in the light of such experience, may be in the public interest.

The Board is also of the opinion, in view of the comment received, and other information, that the detailed description of the systems or conditions being simulated, and the degree of simulation, should not be prescribed in the Civil Air Regulations but should be controlled by the Administrator through the medium of the appropriate Civil Aeronautics Manual. The Board considers, however, that the broad, basic standards which describe the characteristics and function of an acceptable aircraft simulator should be included in the regulations.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment, and due consideration has been given to all relevant matter presented.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Civil Aeronautics Board hereby amends Part 40 of the Civil Air Regulations (14 CFR Part 40, as amended) effective March 15, 1957.

By amending § 40.302 (b) by adding a new subparagraph (3) to read as follows:

40.302 Pilot checks. * * *

(b) Proficiency check. * * *

(3) Subsequent to the initial pilot proficiency check, a pilot in command need accomplish in flight only one of the proficiency checks required by paragraph (b) (1) of this section during each 12 months if he satisfactorily completes within such 12 months an approved course of training in an aircraft simulator. The interval between completion of the proficiency check in flight and the simulator training course shall be not less than 4 or more than 8 months. The air carrier shall show that the flight characteristics, performance, instrument reaction, and control loadings of the applicable aircraft are accurately simulated in the aircraft simulator through all ranges of normal and emergency operations in accordance with subdivisions (i) through (vii) of this subparagraph:

(i) The simulator shall represent a full-scale mock-up of the cockpit interior, including normal flight crew stations and accommodations for the instructor or check airman.

(ii) The effect of changes on the basic forces and moments shall be introduced for all combinations of drag and thrust normally encountered in flight. The effect of changes in airplane attitude, power, drag, altitude, temperature, gross weight, center of gravity location, and configuration shall be included.

(iii) In response to control movement by a flight crew member, all instrument indications involved in the simulation of the applicable airplane shall be entirely automatic in character unless otherwise specified. The rate of change of simulator instrument readings and of control forces shall correspond to the rate of change which would occur on the applicable airplane under actual flight conditions, for any given change in the applied load on the controls, in the applied power or in aircraft configuration. Control forces and degree of actuating control travel shall correspond to that which would occur in the airplane under actual flight conditions.

(iv) Through the medium of instrument indication, it shall be possible to use the simulator for the training and checking of a pilot in the operational use of controls and instruments on the applicable airplane model during the simulated execution of ground operation, take-off, landing, normal flight, unusual attitudes, navigation problems, and instrument approach procedures. In addition, the simulator shall be designed so that malfunction of aircraft engines, propellers, and primary systems may be presented and corrective action taken by the crew to cope with such emergencies.

(v) Suitable course and altitude recorders shall be included.

(vi) Communication and navigation aids of the applicable airplane shall be simulated for on-the-ground and in-flight operations.

(vii) Other aircraft systems and components shall be simulated to the extent found necessary by the Administrator.

(Sec. 205 (a), 52 Stat. 984; 49 U.S.C. 425 (a). Interpret or apply secs. 601, 52 Stat. 1007, as amended, 49 U.S.C. 551)

By the Civil Aeronautics Board:

/s/ M. C. Mulligan

M. C. Mulligan
Secretary

(SEAL)

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