NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.606

National Policy

Effective Date:
12/27/21

Cancellation Date:
12/27/22

SUBJ: Use of Air Carrier Pilots During Flight Standardization Board Evaluations for Transport Airplanes

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides information and guidance to the Aircraft Evaluation Division (AED) (AFS-100) regarding the use of domestic and foreign air carrier pilots during Flight Standardization Board (FSB) operational evaluations. Based on the implementation of Section 128 of the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act of 2021 (ACSAA), the FSB's procedures must now include the use of air carrier pilots of varying levels of experience for transport airplane type certification projects.

2. Audience. The audience for this notice is AFS-100 aviation safety inspectors (ASI) conducting FSB activities on transport airplanes.

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, the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at https://fsims.avs.faa.gov, and the Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) at https://drs.faa.gov. Operators and the public can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website at https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices, FSIMS at https://fsims.faa.gov, and the DRS.

4. Definitions. As defined by and for the purposes of the implementation of the ACSAA, the following terms are defined in this notice.

a. Air Carrier Pilots. Pilots from air carriers that are expected to operate transport airplanes that are submitted for certification.

b. FSB Operational Evaluation. FSB operational evaluations are the evaluations that are used during aircraft certification to determine pilot type ratings and recommend minimum training program requirements. These are currently conducted in accordance with FAA Order 8900.1 and Advisory Circular (AC) 120-53, Guidance for Conducting and Use of Flight Standardization Board Evaluations[1].

[1] AC 120-53 provides a means, but not the only means, of evaluating manufactured or modified aircraft.

c. FSB Test Subjects. FSB test subjects are FAA employees selected by FAA or air carrier pilots identified by the applicant and accepted by the FAA. Non-FAA test subjects participate in FSB activities but are not members of the FSB.

d. Manufacturer. The term manufacturer means the applicant for a new, amended, or supplemental type design, as described in FAA Order 8110.4, Type Certification.

e. Transport Airplane. The term transport airplane means a transport category airplane designed for operation by an air carrier or foreign air carrier type certificated with a passenger seating capacity of 30 or more, or an all-cargo or combi derivative of such an airplane.

5. Background.

a. FSB. Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 5, Flight Standardization Boards, establishes guidance for the FSB. The FSB's primary responsibilities are to determine the requirements for pilot type ratings, develop minimum training recommendations, and ensure initial flightcrew member competency in accordance with AC 120-53.

b. ACSAA. The ACSAA directed the FAA to revise existing policies to ensure pilot operational evaluations during certification utilize pilots from air carriers that are expected to operate transport airplanes. The legislation directed that the air carrier pilots used in these activities have varying levels of experience.

6. Related Publications (current editions):

- FAA Order 8110.4, Type Certification.
- FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 5, Flight Standardization Boards; and Section 6, Serve as a Member of a Flight Standardization Board.
- AC 120-53, Guidance for Conducting and Use of Flight Standardization Board Evaluations.

7. Action.

a. FSB Composition. Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 5, paragraph 8-107 establishes the current composition of the FSB. This notice revises paragraph 8-107 by adding subparagraph 8-107E:

> **E. FSB Test Subjects.** FSB test subjects are the identified FAA pilots and/or air carrier pilots that participate in the FSB activities as appropriate for the size, scope, and specific requirements.

b. FSB Responsibilities. Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 5, paragraph 8-109 establishes the responsibilities of FSB members. This notice revises subparagraph 8-109B by adding the following NOTE under subparagraph 8-109B:

> NOTE: The FSB chairperson may request the FSB test subjects to attend meetings; however, the FSB test subjects do not participate in the preparation of the Flight Standardization Board Report (FSBR) unless identified as an FSB member.

c. Revise the Title of Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 6. This notice revises the title of the section to:

Section 6 Involvement on a Flight Standardization Board

d. General Information. Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 6, paragraph 8-129 establishes general guidance for FAA employees involved in FSB activities. This notice revises subparagraphs 8-129B and B2) and adds 8-129B4) as follows:

B. FSB Composition. The FSB is composed of the following:

…

2) Members. FSB membership should reflect the size, scope, and specific requirements to complete the evaluation. FSB members are identified by the FSB chairperson, and may include:

- Operations inspectors.
- FSB test subjects (except non-FAA test subjects).
- Office of Safety Standards (OSS) representatives.
- Technical advisors.

…

4) FSB Test Subjects. The number and selection of FSB test subjects is based upon the type of certification project, the evaluation(s) required, and the intended regulatory operating environment for the aircraft. For transport airplane projects, the FSB chairperson must ensure that FSB test subjects include air carrier pilots of varying levels of experience. All identified FSB test subjects must be trained, current (in accordance with the appropriate regulatory requirements), and proficient in the base aircraft, if applicable.

e. Prerequisites and Coordination Requirements. This notice revises Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Section 6, subparagraphs 8-130A and B, as follows:

A. Prerequisites.

1) FSB Members. A proposed FSB member should be knowledgeable of the appropriate regulatory requirements, FAA policies, and AC guidance regarding FSB activities.

2) FSB Test Subjects.

a) Air Carrier FSB Test Subjects. The FSB chairperson must ensure that any air carrier pilot proposed as an FSB test subject must be appropriately licensed, qualified, and proficient in accordance with all appropriate regulatory requirements. The FSB chairperson will coordinate industry participation for all activities with the manufacturer.

b) FAA Pilots. Test pilots and Operations inspectors that will serve on the FSB as test subjects must be appropriately rated and proficient in accordance with all appropriate regulatory and FAA policy requirements.

B. Coordination.

1) This task will require coordination with AFS-100, the Air Transportation Division (AFS-200), the General Aviation and Commercial Division (AFS-800), an Aircraft Certification Service office, the manufacturer, the operator, or the responsible Flight Standards office.

2) Consistent with the manufacturer's obligations under the legislation, for transport airplane projects, the FSB Chair must issue AEG O-6, Operational Evaluation Issue Paper, which will document how the manufacturer ensures to the Administrator's satisfaction that air carrier pilots used in the operational evaluation include pilots of varying levels of experience.

8. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into Order 8900.1, Volume 8, Chapter 2, Sections 5 and 6 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to AFS-100 at AFS-AED-POL-ONLY-FED@faa.gov.



Robert Ruiz
Acting Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service