

Aviation Group Client Update

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PROPOSED NEW PILOT CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS

The FAA issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) today proposing new certification and qualification requirements for pilots in air carrier operations. In addition, the new standards will amend the requirements for all pilots seeking to obtain an airline transport pilot (ATP) certificate with an airplane category multiengine class rating and/or type rating.

The proposal requires a second in command (SIC) in part 121 operations to hold an ATP certificate, which would entail 1,500 hours of pilot flight time instead of the current 250, as well as a type rating for the specific aircraft flown. Further, the FAA proposed to allow pilots with fewer than 1,500 hours of flight time, but with an aviation degree or military pilot experience, to obtain a “restricted privileges” ATP certificate. These certificates would be restricted in accordance with 14 C.F.R. § 61.168(a) and would otherwise not meet the pilot in command (PIC) aeronautical experience requirements of ICAO. The restrictions would be removed once the pilot demonstrates that the applicable age and experience requirements are met.

Other proposals include: (1) requiring a minimum of 1,000 flight hours as a pilot in air carrier operations that require an ATP prior to serving as a PIC for a U.S. airline; and (2) enhancing ATP certificate training requirements, including 50 hours of multi-engine flight experience and completion of a new FAA-approved training program.

The FAA is soliciting comments by **April 30, 2012** regarding the proposed changes and whether increasing the number of required flight hours is an effective way to achieve safety. If you have any questions, or if we can assist in preparing comments, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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