



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 10009
DATE: 6/23/10

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo

A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO.

Subject: Safety Management System (SMS) Principals, Training and Pilot Skill Level Tracking

Purpose: This SAFO provides guidance for incorporating into training programs, the tracking of pilots with low experience levels and pilots who demonstrate difficulty in either the training or operational environment.

Background: Notice N 8900.78, published June 24, 2009 required principal inspectors (PI) to conduct a focused review of training programs to ensure that air carriers have the capability to identify, track, and manage low-time flight crewmembers, as well as those who have failed evaluation events and/or demonstrated a repetitive need for additional training.

Discussion: As result of these focused reviews and other Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs, the FAA believes, traditional Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), part 121 air carrier training programs need to evolve from simple ground school and flight training curriculum segments to more robust scenario-based training. These new training programs will require crewmember cooperation and collaboration while managing a complex, changing set of situational challenges. The traditional system has been challenged in recent years by the entry of lower time flight crewmembers into the system. These new-entry crewmembers, along with those crewmembers who have demonstrated sub-standard performance, require identification, monitoring, tracking, and mentoring to ensure operations at the highest level of safety.

Recommended Action: Chief Operating Officers, directors of safety, directors of operations, directors of training, and chief pilots responsible for FAA approved flight crewmember training programs should be familiar with the content of this SAFO and AC 120-92, Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Air Operators. The FAA expects each carrier to carefully review its training programs to ensure that SMS principles are incorporated in their air carrier training programs. Pilot training programs must include a specific system for tracking the performance of low time/low experience pilots as well as those pilots who demonstrate sub-standard performance in the training or operational arena. Failure to include SMS principles in existing training programs constitutes a safety risk and will be considered in Flight Standards' oversight planning.

Contact: Questions or comments concerning the air carrier training portion of this SAFO should be addressed to the Air Carrier Training Branch, AFS-210 at 202-267-8166. Questions or comments concerning the SMS portion of this SAFO should be addressed to the Flight Standards Certification and Surveillance Division, AFS-900, Don Arendt, via email at don.arendt@faa.gov or phone at 703-661-0516.