InFO

Information for Operators

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO 08041
DATE: 7/10/08

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

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

*An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory,
or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.*

Subject: Checklist Review

Purpose: This InFO provides guidance for air carriers which operate under Title 14 of the Code
of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 121 and 135. The guidance is intended to ensure that all
checklists comply with the information presented in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
report, "Human Performance Considerations in the Use and Design of Aircraft Checklists," dated
January 1995. In addition, this InFO has been developed in response to National Transportation
Safety Board (NTSB) safety recommendation A-97-9 and supersedes Flight Standards
Information Bulletin for Air Transportation (FSAT) 98-08.

Background: Checklist usage and design was identified as a problem by a National
Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) study of major US air carrier accidents, which cited
improper use or failure to use a checklist as the probable cause or contributing factor in many
aircraft accidents.

Discussion: A. A new checklist design alone will not eliminate the problems associated with
checklist error; however, operators can target specific areas of concern when creating or revising
checklists. These areas include content, item criticality, human factors, aircraft sophistication,
fleet standardization, form, and verification enhancement.

B. "Human Performance Considerations in the Use and Design of Aircraft Checklists,"
published by the Office of Integrated Safety Analysis, Human Factors Analysis Division,
January 1995, presents information, which can assist part 121 and 135 operators in aircraft
flightdeck checklist design, development, and use. The report emphasizes the impact of human
performance on checklist use, the importance of checklist design, format, presentation, and the
cumulative effect of improper typography. This report may be found at FAA web site:
http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/afs/afs200/branches/afs21
0/training_aids/media/checklist.doc.

C. Related 14 CFRs include the following: Part 21.5, Airplane or Rotorcraft Flight Manual,
part 25.1585, Operating Procedures, part 121.315, Cockpit Check Procedure,

part 121.542, Flight Crewmember Duties, part 135.83, Operating Information Required, and part 135.100, Flight Crewmember Duties.

Recommended action: Directors of safety and directors of operations (Part 121) and directors of operations (part 135) should review their respective checklists to ensure that all checklists address the guidance presented in the FAA report titled, "Human Performance Considerations in the Use and Design of Aircraft Checklists".