



# InFO

Information for Operators

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

InFO 10024  
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Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

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*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:** Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) Certificate Requirement for Pilots in Part 121 Operations

**Purpose:** The purpose of this InFO is to advise air carriers and pilots conducting operations under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), part 121, of the statutory requirement for all pilot flightcrew members to have or obtain an appropriate ATP certificate by August 2, 2013.

**Background:** In accordance with the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Extension Act of 2010, Public Law (P.L.) 111-216, § 216, the FAA must conduct rulemaking to ensure all pilot flightcrew members who are authorized to operate in part 121 operations have obtained an ATP certificate issued under 14 CFR part 61 by August 2, 2013.

Though the FAA may propose alternative hour requirements for a restricted privileges ATP, the P.L. does not include grandfathering provisions for current pilot flightcrew members who hold commercial pilot certificates.

Operators should also take note of the default language in § 216 (c), which states that the ATP certificate is required by all pilot flightcrew members who are authorized to operate in part 121 operations by August 2, 2013, regardless of the FAA’s progress in rulemaking; see excerpt below:

SEC. 216. FLIGHT CREWMEMBER SCREENING AND QUALIFICATIONS.  
PUBLIC LAW 111-216—AUG. 1, 2010

(1) RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require part 121 air carriers to develop and implement means and methods for ensuring that flight crewmembers have proper qualifications and experience.

(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) >>>>>>>>

(B) ALL FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS.—Rules issued under paragraph (1) shall ensure that, after the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, all flight crewmembers—

(i) have obtained an airline transport pilot certificate under part 61 of title 14 Code of Federal Regulations;

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(c) DEFAULT.—The requirement that each flight crewmember for a part 121 air carrier hold an airline transport pilot certificate under part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, shall begin to apply on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act even if the Administrator fails to meet a deadline established under this section.

**Recommended Action:** Each part 121 Director of Operations, Chief Pilot and pilot flightcrew members who are authorized to operate in part 121 operations should review the contents of this InFO and become familiar with the applicable provisions of Public Law (P.L.) 111-216.

**Contact:** Questions or comments concerning this InFO should be directed to the Air Transportation Division, Robert Burke at [robert.burke@faa.gov](mailto:robert.burke@faa.gov), or Barbara Adams at [barbara.adams@faa.gov](mailto:barbara.adams@faa.gov).