

The Advanced Qualification Program

FAA Lessons Learned From 20 Years of AQP

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Overview

- **What is the Advanced Qualification Program (AQP)?**
- **Why was the program implemented?**
- **What are the program's main features?**
- **How do the regulatory and voluntary programs interface?**
- **What lessons has the FAA learned?**
- **What is the future of FAA training?**



What is the Advanced Qualification Program (AQP)?

- **The FAA AQP Rule, 14 CFR, Part 121 Subpart Y, allows an alternative means of regulatory compliance for air carrier training.**
- **Alternate means of compliance are authorized, so long as the AQP alternative is demonstrated to be as safe as, or safer than, the traditional requirement.**



Why was the Program Implemented?

- **By the late 1980's, human error had emerged as the primary cause of US air carrier accidents.**
- **The FAA and industry agreed that more flexible training regulations would allow a more creative response to this new threat.**
- **The FAA adopted a modified version of the then-current military training methods based on front-end task analysis and back-end data analysis: AQP.**



What are the Program's Main Features?

- **Participation is voluntary and can be terminated by the carrier or the FAA.**
- **A systems approach must be applied to the analysis, design, development, implementation, operation and evaluation of all training.**
- **De-identified performance data must be shared with the FAA.**



How do the regulatory and voluntary programs interface?

- **AQP is a voluntary means of compliance with a regulatory requirement to qualify, train, certify and otherwise assure the competence of pilots, flight attendants and dispatchers.**
- **If an airline goes AQP, all fleets go AQP.**
- **Under future FAA Safety Management Systems (SMS) regulations, many of the current AQP components will be integrated into traditional training programs.**



What Lessons has the FAA Learned?

- **Maintaining two sets of training regulations has allowed and encouraged voluntary participants to exceed FAA standards.**
- **AQP did not realize it's full potential until training data analysis was meshed with operational safety data analysis.**
- **A dedicated FAA Headquarters Office was critical to the success of AQP.**



What Lessons has the FAA Learned?

- **“AQP is not for everyone”.**
- **Flight Attendant and Dispatcher AQP’s have challenges beyond Pilot AQP’s.**
- **Independent analysis of air carrier AQP data by the FAA is a critical quality control step.**
- **Instructor and Evaluator calibration training is mandatory.**
- **Instructors and Evaluators are the key to a successful AQP.**



What Lessons has the FAA Learned?

- **Joint approval by both headquarters and field offices is essential.**
- **Independent training centers have not elected to offer AQP training programs.**
- **Few international carriers have adopted US style AQP programs.**
- **Advances in AQP have not spread to non-AQP carriers.**



What Lessons has the FAA Learned?

- **Annual information sharing meetings including all participants has been vital in spreading the latest innovations in AQP.**



What is the Future of FAA Training?

- **The percentage of pilots, flight attendants and dispatchers in AQP will continue to increase.**
- **The FAA will continue to maintain two sets of training regulations.**
- **A single program office will coordinate and issue guidance on AQP, CRM and LOS (Line Operational Simulation).**



What is the Future of FAA Training?

- **AQP is now spreading rapidly through the regional air carrier community, bringing new challenges, to include less experienced pilots.**
- **AQP, like all the FAA's data-driven voluntary safety programs, will form the major building blocks of future FAA-approved Safety Management Systems at the airlines.**



Questions?

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