



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

OC NO 20 OF 2014
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OPERATIONS CIRCULAR

File No AV 22024/39/2014-FSD

Subject: Type Currency Programme for Flight Operations Inspectors

1. INTRODUCTION

DGCA has recruited Flight Operations Inspectors (FOIs) on short term contract basis to fill up full time posts of FOIs who are required to carry out certification, inspection and surveillance functions of operators subject to oversight of DGCA. The FOIs have been inducted into DGCA from a pool ranging from active to retired pilots and consequently have varying requirements to maintain type currency.

2. POLICY

DGCA FOIs may participate in a Type Currency Programme (TCP) with an air operator or private operator in keeping with the specific conditions of this Operations Circular (OC).

3. OBJECTIVE

The TCP will provide training to FOIs to ensure they become or remain technically competent and have a complete understanding of operating practices, norms, and company (Air Operator) cultures by direct participation in company (Air Operator) operations on a periodic or continuing basis.

4. COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME

Since all FOIs are eligible to participate in the TCP, and in order to make it cost effective, FSD must take into consideration the type of aircraft experience the FOI already has (or is about to have) in relation to his/her duties and responsibilities.

5. COST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Sound management of the TCP is critical to its success. In order to ensure that cost effective management is maintained throughout the TCP, this training directive includes the following direction/guidelines:

- a) FSD, DGCA may only allow FOIs to train on aircraft that they are currently qualified on, or are about to be qualified on as a result of their duties and responsibilities. Deviations from this requirement may be allowed if it has been demonstrated to be cost effective.
- b) FSD may be required to limit the number of FOIs that are participating in the programme in order to ensure that there is no disruption of FOI availability for duties.
- c) Managing the number of days the FOIs may be allowed to train is paramount in ensuring the effectiveness of this programme. FSD and the air operator are required to work out an arrangement that is suitable to everybody's needs. These needs may vary from one case to another depending on the type of operation and the FSD's ability to release the FOI to conduct training duties.
- d) Frequency of training must be limited in order to ensure that the benefits of the programme are fully realized.

6. PROGRAMME OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The principles fundamental to the success of the TCP are:

- a) The programme must be of benefit to both DGCA and industry;
- b) DGCA regulatory programmes must operate free from bias, and hence the TCP must be managed in a manner that withstands public scrutiny;
- c) Supervisors delegated the responsibility to approve an FOI to conduct TCP training shall be accountable to ensure adherence to the directive in a manner that is consistent with DGCA objectives and in a manner so as not to subject the department to public criticism;
- d) Participant operators in this programme shall be advised of all conditions under which they must operate setting out their commitment to those conditions; and
- e) Participating FOIs must be fully briefed and acknowledge their duties and responsibilities under this OC.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The potential for a real or perceived conflict of interest is a valid and serious concern with respect to the implementation of this OC.

As in the Air Operator Designated Examiner Programme, the risk of real or perceived conflict of interest is addressed by making all aspects of the programme and its controls public and open to scrutiny.

The following controls apply:

- a) Before being allowed to participate on the TCP, the FOI will be provided with guidance and direction on how to avoid and/or deal with perceived conflict of interest issues associated with training.
- b) Any FOI suspected to be in a conflict of interest with the operator shall be immediately removed from all training activities pending a review.
- c) FOIs are to conduct themselves as company line pilots while at the host operator, and will not act as a training or operator's Designated Examiner. FOIs shall adhere to all requirements of the DGCA approved Company Operations Manual and other related documents.
- d) Irregularities shall be acted upon and reported to the operator's supervisory personnel through normal company channels in the manner that would be expected of a conscientious company employee.

A FOI shall invoke his/her full authority in situations that involve an immediate threat to aviation as deemed appropriate. These situations shall be reported immediately to CFOI/JDG and the air operator.

Any situation that involves an accident/incident and/or has a potential for media attention shall be reported to CFOI/JDG immediately.

A FOI shall not participate in any certification, inspection or audit of the host air operator while actively in the programme with the host operator. Active involvement in the TCP refers to the duration in which the FOI undertakes ground and flying duties in order to maintain currency.

8. TCP AGREEMENT CONDITIONS

Priority and Responsibilities

A participating FOI's primary duty is to DCGA. Training duties shall not interfere with DGCA tasks.

Qualification for Duty

The participating FOI shall meet all air operator hiring requirements, undergo all relevant air operator and aircraft training and in all respects qualify for and exercise their flight deck duties as a normal air operator pilot.

Remuneration and Compensation

A FOI will receive no remuneration from the hosting operator except per diem associated with a standard crew halt pattern. In this case, the per diem will not be higher than the rate prescribed for Government employee TA/DA. A FOI is entitled to normal company-provided items such as uniforms and company standard crew rest facilities.

DGCA will remain the Employer for the purposes of remuneration.

Program Assessment

The CFOI retains the mandate to ensure that the FOIs are fully qualified to perform their intended roles. In support of this mandate, the CFOI may elect to review the FOIs participation in a TCP and make recommendations or re-assignments as required.

A FOIs performance in connection with training, as in any other regulatory programme, is subject to review under the performance review process. The CFOI may request information in support of programme and FOIs performance review from the host operator as required.

Suspension or Termination of the Agreement

A TCP training agreement may be terminated at any time by DGCA or the hosting operator. Termination will normally occur with sufficient notice to minimise disruption at the hosting operator.

A TCP training agreement may be temporarily suspended at either party's request in such cases as an audit or pending regulatory action, a complaint regarding the programme or other unusual circumstance. A request for suspension should include the reason for suspension and its anticipated duration.

Liability

Although liability to third parties cannot be limited by an agreement between the DGCA and the operator, an agreement between DGCA and the host air operator as to who shall pay the damages assessed in respect of the negligence of the FOI is required. The agreement shall include a waiver and indemnity provision whereby the operator agrees, first not to sue the DGCA for any damages caused by the FOI and, secondly to pay any damages to third parties assessed against the DGCA as a result of an FOIs actions while in the TCP. The operator would also be required to maintain insurance to cover possible damages.

The fact that the inspector is or is not the pilot-in-command would have no bearing on the DGCA's liability.

9. PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH A TCP

An operator initiates the process with a letter of invitation naming the assigned FOI. This letter should be directed to the Director General.

- a) The DGCA and host operator agree on specifics such as company-reimbursed items, training requirements and liability issues;

- b) A TCP agreement which sets out all associated conditions is signed by the DGCA, hosting operator and participating FOI.

10. TYPES OF TCPS

TCPs are classified into three types depending on the FOI type currency requirements that are based on their status at time of joining DGCA;

- a) **Group 1.** FOIs holding a current type rating and joined DGCA on a lien from respective operator.
- b) **Group 2.** FOIs holding a current type rating and joined DGCA without a lien from respective operator.
- c) **Group 3.** FOIs not holding a current type rating, medically unfit or retired from active flying.

The details of TCP required for the above groups are given in Appendix A.

11. REVIEW

This OC on training will be reviewed one year after implementation to ensure the objectives of the program are being met, it remains cost-effective and conflict-of-interest is not an issue.

Sd/-
(Capt Ajay Singh)
Chief Flight Operations Inspector
For Director General of Civil Aviation

APPENDIX A

TCP DETAILS

	Quantum of Flying	Operator Responsibility
Group 1	3 take offs and landings in 90 days of which 1 may be in simulator with the operator which gave the lien.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Annual technical and performance refresher as per Company OM b) Resources for IR/PPC training and checks on FFS/aeroplane. Checks may be conducted by another FOI on the simulator c) Insurance coverage for operation of aeroplane covering FOI
Group 2	3 take offs and landings in 90 days of which 1 may be in simulator with an operator which agrees to the TCP. The TCP has to be mutually agreed between DGCA and the operator. If not, then Group 2 FOIs will be limited to 3 take offs and landings in the simulator in 90 days with an operator with that type of aeroplane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Same as Group 1 if TCP involves flying. b) If not flying, then annual technical and performance refresher as per respective Company OM, resources for IR/PPC training and checks on FFS. Checks may be carried out by another FOI on the simulator
Group 3	No flying	CAP 8200 annual requirement of ground refresher and resources for simulator training and checks. Checks may be carried out by another FOI on the simulator

