

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.282

National Policy

Effective Date:
1/13/15

Cancellation Date:
1/13/16

SUBJ: Requirements for Issuing Operations Specification A015, Autopilot in Lieu of a Second in Command

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides guidance to inspectors for issuing operations specification (OpSpec) A015 to operators who have requested, or who are currently authorized, the use of an autopilot in lieu of a second in command (SIC).
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and certificate management office (CMO) principal operations inspectors (POI). The secondary audience includes Flight Standards Service (AFS) branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters (HQ).
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.
- 4. Background.** This notice serves to clarify AFS policy as it pertains to aviation safety inspectors (ASI) authorizing the use of an autopilot in lieu of an SIC under part 135 passenger-carrying operations.
 - a. Autopilot in Lieu of an SIC Deviation Not Required.** OpSpec A005 is used to reflect the exemptions and deviations an operator may be authorized. Previously, there was a drop-down selection within A005 that allowed an ASI to select a deviation from the requirements of part 135, § 135.101. As a result, ASIs were being directed to grant a deviation to a regulation where none is required.
 - b. Section 135.105 Authorization.** A deviation is not required because § 135.105 authorizes the use of an autopilot in lieu of an SIC, provided all of the requirements are met. The example in Figure 1 will no longer be selectable within A005.

Figure 1. Example of Deviation Formerly Selectable in OpSpec A005

| Deviation Authority | Deviation From | Description | Conditions and Limitations |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 135.105(c) | 135.101 | Authorization to use autopilot in lieu of second in command – (A015) | |

5. Action. Principal inspectors (PI) with oversight responsibilities of operators authorized the use of an autopilot in lieu of an SIC must issue A015. For operators who have been issued A005 referencing this deviation, PIs must amend A005, removing this deviation, within 12 months from the effective date of this notice.

6. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to Lee Abbott, Aviation Safety Inspector, Part 135 Air Carrier Operations Branch (AFS-250), at (202) 267-8166.

ORIGINAL SIGNED by

/s/ John Barbagallo
Acting Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service