

OPS 1.978  
Alternative training and qualification programme  
(See Appendix 1 to OPS 1.978)

(a) An operator, following a minimum of two years continuous operations, may substitute the training and checking requirements for flight crew specified in Appendix 1 to OPS 1.978(a) by an alternative training and Qualification programme (ATQP) approved by the Authority. The two years continuous operations may be reduced at the discretion of the Authority.

(b) The ATQP must contain training and checking which establishes and maintains a level of proficiency demonstrated to be at least not less than the level of proficiency achieved by following the provisions of OPS 1.945, 1.965 and 1.970. The standard of flight crew training and qualification shall be established prior to the introduction of ATQP; the required ATQP training and qualification standards shall also be specified.

(c) An operator applying for approval to implement an ATQP shall provide the Authority with an implementation plan in accordance with paragraph (c) of Appendix 1 to OPS 1.978.

(d) In addition to the checks required by OPS 1.965 and 1.970 an operator shall ensure that each flight crew member undergoes a Line Orientated Evaluation (LOE).

1. The line orientated evaluation (LOE) shall be conducted in a simulator. The LOE may be undertaken with other approved ATQP training.

2. The period of validity of a LOE shall be 12 calendar months, in addition to the remainder of the month of issue. If issued within the final three calendar months of validity of a previous LOE the period of validity shall extend from the date of issue until 12 calendar months from the expiry date of that previous LOE.

(e) After two years of operating within an approved ATQP an operator may, with the approval of the Authority, extend the periods of validity of OPS 1.965 and 1.970 as follows:

1. operator proficiency check — 12 calendar months in addition to the remainder of the month of issue. If issued within the final three calendar months of validity of a previous operator proficiency check, the period of validity shall extend from the date of issue until 12 calendar months from the expiry date of that previous operator proficiency check;

2. line check — 24 calendar months in addition to the remainder of the month of issue. If issued within the final six calendar months of validity of a previous line check, the period of validity shall extend from the date of issue until 24 calendar months from the expiry date of that previous line check. The line check may be combined with a line oriented quality evaluation (LOQE) with the approval of the authority;

3. emergency and safety equipment checking — 24 calendar months in addition to the remainder of the month of issue. If issued within the final 6 calendar months of validity of a previous check, the period of validity shall extend from the date of issue until 24 calendar months from the expiry date of that previous check.

(f) The ATQP shall be the responsibility of a nominated post holder.

Appendix 1 to OPS 1.978  
Alternative training and qualification programme

(a) An operator's ATQP may apply to the following requirements that relate to training and qualifications:

1. OPS 1.450 and Appendix 1 to OPS 1.450 — Low Visibility Operations –Training and Qualifications;
2. OPS 1.945 Conversion training and checking and Appendix 1 to OPS 1.945;
3. OPS 1.950 Differences training and familiarisation training;
4. OPS 1.955 paragraph (b) — Nomination as commander;
5. OPS 1.965 Recurrent training and checking and Appendices 1 and 2 to OPS 1.965;
6. OPS 1.980 Operation on more than one type or variant and Appendix 1 to OPS 1.980.

(b) Components of the ATQP — an alternative training and qualification programme shall comprise the

following:

1. Documentation that details the scope and requirements of the programme;
2. A task analysis to determine the tasks to be analysed in terms of:
  - (i) knowledge;
  - (ii) the required skills;
  - (iii) the associated skill based training;and, where appropriate
  - (iv) the validated behavioural markers.
3. Curricula — the curriculum structure and content shall be determined by task analysis, and shall include proficiency objectives including when and how those objectives shall be met. The process for curriculum development shall be acceptable to the Authority;
4. A specific training programme for:
  - (i) each aeroplane type/class within the ATQP;
  - (ii) the instructors (Class rating instructor rating/Synthetic flight instructor authorisation/Type rating instructor rating — CRI/SFI/TRI), and other personnel undertaking flight crew instruction;
  - (iii) the examiners (Class rating examiner/Synthetic flight examiner/Type rating examiner — CRE/SFE/TRE); to include a method for the standardisation of the instructors and examiners;
5. A feedback loop for the purpose of curriculum validation and refinement, and to ascertain that the programme meets its proficiency objectives;
6. A method for the assessment of flight crew both during conversion and recurrent training and checking. The assessment process shall include event-based assessment as part of the LOE. The method of assessment shall comply with the provisions of OPS 1.965;
7. An integrated system of quality control, that ensures compliance with all the requirements processes and procedures of the programme;
8. A process that describes the method to be used if the monitoring and evaluation programmes do not ensure compliance with the established proficiency and qualification standards for flight crew;
9. A data monitoring/analysis programme.

(c) Implementation — The operator shall develop an evaluation and implementation strategy acceptable to the Authority; the following requirements shall be fulfilled:

1. The implementation process shall include the following stages:
  - (i) a safety case that substantiates the validity of:
    - (A) the revised training and qualification standards when compared with the standards achieved under OPS 1 prior to the introduction of ATQP.
    - (B) any new training methods implemented as part of ATQP.If approved by the Authority the operator may establish an equivalent method other than a formal safety case.
  - (ii) Undertake a task analysis as required by paragraph (b)2 above in order to establish the operator's programme of targeted training and the associated training objectives.
  - (iii) A period of operation whilst data is collected and analysed to ensure the efficacy of the safety case or equivalent and validate the task analysis. During this period the operator shall continue to operate to the pre-ATQP OPS 1 requirements. The length of this period shall be agreed with the authority;
2. The operator may then be approved to conduct training and qualification as specified under the ATQP.