

Minimum Airline Management Pilot Qualifications

There are minimum qualifications required to serve in a pilot management position at a Part 121 carrier. The required positions are listed in FAR Part 119.65, and the qualifications are detailed in FAR Part 119.67. What follows is a basic summary.

Director of Operations: To serve in this role, a person must ...

- Hold an airline transport pilot certificate.
- Have at least three years' supervisory or managerial experience within the past six years in a position that exercised operational control over any operations conducted with large airplanes under Part 121 or Part 135, or if the certificate holder uses only small airplanes in its operations, the experience may be obtained in large or small airplanes.
- Have at least three years' experience, within the past six years, as pilot in command of a large airplane operated under Part 121 or Part 135, if the certificate holder operates large airplanes. (If the person has previous experience as a Director of Operations, those three years' experience as pilot in command do not have to be within the past six years.)

Chief Pilot: To serve in this role, a person must ...

- Hold an airline transport pilot certificate with appropriate ratings for at least one of the airplanes used in the certificate holder's operation.
- Have at least three years' experience, within the past six years, as pilot in command of a large airplane operated under Part 121 or Part 135, if the certificate holder operates large airplanes. (If the person has previous experience as a Chief Pilot, those three years' experience as pilot in command do not have to be within the past six years.)