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APPENDIX: 4

BULLETIN TYPE: Flight Standards Information Bulletin  
(FSIB) for General Aviation (FSGA)

BULLETIN NUMBER: FSGA 98-02

BULLETIN TITLE: Authorization for Use of Personal Computer-  
Based Aviation Training Devices under the  
Provisions of Title 14 of the Code of  
Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Parts 61  
and 141

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-26-98

1. **SUBJECT.** This bulletin contains information and guidance to permit aviation safety inspectors (ASI) to authorize the use of personal computer-based aviation training devices (PCATD), qualified and approved in accordance with Advisory Circular (AC) 61-126, Qualification and Approval of Personal Computer-Based Aviation Training Devices, toward satisfying the instrument rating flight training requirements of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 61 and 141, under the Administrator's authority for the approval of these devices under section 61.4 (c).
2. **BACKGROUND.** PCATD's are distinct from Flight Training Devices (FTD) qualified under AC 120-45, Airplane Flight Training Device Qualification, current edition, and flight simulators qualified under AC 120-40, Airplane Simulator Qualification. AFS-800 has recently qualified and approved specific models of these devices for use as authorized and expects that additional models will be qualified and approved as they are developed by commercial enterprise within the aviation industry. Guidance is needed to permit ASI's to become familiar with industry acquisition and use of these devices under the regulations without undue delay. AFS-800 has recently been made aware that inappropriate advertisement claims for the authorized use of such devices under parts 61 and 141 by some elements of industry may not be in compliance with the policy intended by Flight Standards for their use. Therefore, the following policy is established to ensure that only those devices qualified and approved in accordance with AC 61-126 are authorized for use under parts 61 and 141 as intended by Flight Standards Service.
3. **POLICY.** All manufacturers of PCATD models qualified and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are issued a letter by AFS-800 identifying the manufacturer of the qualified and approved model device. It is incumbent upon that manufacturer to ensure that subsequent models of its original design continue to meet the qualification and approval criteria under AC 61-126. The purchaser of a qualified and approved PCATD must have a copy of the manufacturer's letter describing the hardware/software and other components of the PCATD in the configuration, and representing the make and model of either single or multiengine airplane intended to

be replicated. The qualified and approved PCATD is acceptable for use under the following conditions and as outlined under AC 61-126:

A. A PCATD, when used for flight instruction, is authorized for use only in an integrated ground and flight instrument training curriculum under parts 61 or 141. This curriculum must be capable of providing training in all elements for which it will be used as specified in the syllabus. An integrated ground and flight training program is one that:

- (1) Contains alternating modules/elements of ground and flight training;
- (2) Follows the knowledge based skills with motor skills for each flight task; and
- (3) Builds upon specific classroom knowledge by immediately following with procedure rehearsal (PCATD use) and then motor skill rehearsal (flight training device, flight simulator, or aircraft use).
  - (a) If used for flight instruction under part 61, the curriculum used must be in general compliance with the scope and content of a curriculum as it would be approved under part 141;
  - (b) Under part 61, the PCATD may not be used for more than 10 hours of flight instruction toward meeting the 20 hours of flight instruction permitted in a flight training device or a flight simulator;
  - (c) If used for flight instruction under part 141, the curriculum used must be approved under part 141;
  - (d) Under part 141, the PCATD may not be used for more than 10 hours of flight instruction toward meeting the 15 hours of flight instruction permitted in a flight training device or a flight simulator;
  - (e) The flight instruction given in a PCATD must consist of the procedural tasks listed in AC 61-126, appendix 1; and
  - (f) The flight instruction given must be certified as given in a PCATD that has been qualified and approved by the FAA by an instructor authorized to give instrument instruction.

B. Flight experience acquired in a PCATD by an instrument rating applicant should be logged as “simulated instrument flight,” “instrument instruction,” and “PCATD.” The time logged may not exceed 10 hours creditable toward an instrument rating as outlined herein.

4. INQUIRIES. This bulletin was developed by AFS-800. Any questions regarding this information bulletin should be directed to AFS-840 at (202) 267-8196.
5. EXPIRATION DATE. This bulletin expires on March 31, 1999.

/s/

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