§ 121.580 Prohibition on interference with crewmembers.

No person may assault, threaten, intimidate, or interfere with a crewmember in the performance of the crewmember’s duties aboard an aircraft being operated under this part.

§ 121.581 Observer’s seat: En route inspections.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, each certificate holder shall make available a seat on the flight deck of each airplane, used by it in air commerce, for occupancy by the Administrator while conducting en route inspections. The location and equipment of the seat, with respect to its suitability for use in conducting en route inspections, is determined by the Administrator.

(b) In each airplane that has more than one observer’s seat, in addition to the seats required for the crew complement for which the airplane was certificated, the forward observer’s seat or the observer’s seat selected by the Administrator must be made available when complying with paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) For any airplane type certificated before December 20, 1995, for not more than 30 passengers that does not have an observer seat on the flightdeck, the certificate holder must provide a forward passenger seat with headset or speaker for occupancy by the Administrator while conducting en route inspections.

§ 121.582 Means to discreetly notify a flightcrew.

Except for all-cargo operations as defined in § 110.2 of this chapter, after October 15, 2007, for all passenger-carrying airplanes that require a lockable flightdeck door in accordance with § 121.313(f), the certificate holder must have an approved means by which the cabin crew can discreetly notify the flightcrew in the event of suspicious activity or security breaches in the cabin.

§ 121.583 Carriage of persons without compliance with the passenger-carrying requirements of this part.

(a) When authorized by the certificate holder, the following persons, but no others, may be carried aboard an airplane without complying with the passenger-carrying airplane requirements in §§ 121.309(f), 121.310, 121.391, 121.571, and 121.587; the passenger-carrying operation requirements in §§ 121.157(c) and 121.291; and the requirements pertaining to passengers in §§ 121.285, 121.313(f), 121.317, 121.547, and 121.573:

(1) A crewmember.
(2) A company employee.
(3) An FAA air carrier inspector, a DOD commercial air carrier evaluator, or an authorized representative of the National Transportation Safety Board, who is performing official duties.
(4) A person necessary for—
(i) The safety of the flight;
(ii) The safe handling of animals;
(iii) The safe handling of hazardous materials whose carriage is governed by regulations in 49 CFR part 175;
(iv) The security of valuable or confidential cargo;
(v) The preservation of fragile or perishable cargo;
(vi) Experiments on, or testing of, cargo containers or cargo handling devices;
(vii) The operation of special equipment for loading or unloading cargo; and
(viii) The loading or unloading of outsized cargo.