



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

**FOQA Programs,
FAA Oversight,
and SAFO Process**
Operations presentation

FOQA - General

- Voluntary safety program that uses recorded flight data to identify risks and take corrective action
- Safety Recommendation A-07-11
 - Assist regional air carriers in implementing FOQA programs

FOQA at Colgan

- Colgan's FOQA program approved by FAA in Oct. 2008
- Program not implemented at time of accident
- Colgan now implementing FOQA for Q400s

FOQA and Stall Warnings

- Mismatch between ref speeds switch and programmed airspeeds may be common
- FOQA data would help
- Two other U.S. regional airlines operate Q400s but have no FOQA program

FOQA Expansion

- FOQA well established at major air carriers
- FAA had not determined whether newer or smaller airlines or newer airplanes had FOQA
- FAA had not surveyed Part 121 carriers to determine how many airplanes were QAR capable

FAA Action

- Oct. 2009: 43 percent of airline aircraft covered by FOQA
- Dec. 2009: FAA Administrator asked operators without FOQA to implement program
- Jan. 2010: 35 of 100 air carriers covered by FOQA
 - Represents 94 percent of airline aircraft

FAA Oversight

- FAA records showed no deficiencies related directly to accident
- Significant growth requires “surveillance retargeting” by FAA
- 15 new Q400s and new Q400 pilots represented 30-percent increase in company size

FAA Oversight

- POI and APM trained on Q400 concurrent with Colgan line pilots
- Inspectors did oversight as they were learning airplane
- POI did not recommend remedial or supplemental training programs

FAA Oversight

- Most company check airmen interviewed did not have Part 121 experience other than at Colgan
- Q400-qualified FAA inspectors could have augmented certificate's inspectors

Audits and IEP

- POI did not get copies of DOD and IATA audits
- Audits found Colgan's IEP deficient
- Sound IEP would have found training record errors

SAFOs

- SAFOs “contain important safety information that is often critical”
- SAFOs are not included in inspectors’ work programs
- FAA does not routinely track SAFO adoption



NTSB