

AVIATION

FAA proposal would boost hours for co-pilots

They would need 1,500, the same as captains, and would be rated for specific planes

WASHINGTON — Airline co-pilots would have to meet the same experience threshold as captains — the first boost in four decades — under regulations proposed Monday by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The proposed regulations would increase the minimum number of flight hours required to fly for a

commercial air carrier to 1,500 for all pilots. Captains already have to meet that threshold, but co-pilots currently need only 250 hours to fly for an airline.

The proposal is the first increase in the threshold to become a co-pilot since 1973, when the FAA raised the minimum number of hours from 200 to 250.

Co-pilots would also need a "type rating" specific to the airliner they plan to fly, another requirement that has only applied to captains. That would mean additional train-

ing and testing.

The FAA was required to propose the new threshold under an aviation safety law enacted in response to the crash of a regional airliner near Buffalo, N.Y., three years ago. Fifty people died.

Both the pilots in that accident had more than the minimum 1,500 hours. But the crash, which was blamed on pilot error, turned a spotlight on hiring and training at regional airlines. Pilot unions and safety advocates told Congress that co-pilots were sometimes hired at

low wages with barely more than the 250-hour minimum and allowed to fly passengers after meeting no-frills training requirements.

"Our pilots need to have the right training and the right qualifications so they can be prepared to handle any situation they encounter in the cockpit," said Michael Huerta, FAA's acting administrator.

The proposal contains two carve-outs to the new experience requirements that weren't called for by Congress: Former military pilots will need only 750 hours to fly for an

airline, and graduates of university or college flight schools need only 1,000 hours.

Hours accumulated flying small planes up and down beaches towing banners or other basic flying isn't as effective as fewer hours of quality training, FAA officials have said previously.

"The FAA believes a combination of training and flight experience is what makes a candidate qualified to fly" for an airline, the proposal said.

Joan Lowy,
The Associated Press

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



Cassidy Turley Commercial Real Estate

A San Francisco-based data center firm has purchased the 819,000-square-foot Convergence Business Park on State Highway 121 in Lewisville.

Data center firm buys Lewisville complex

Digital Realty Trust pays \$123 million for 10-building Convergence Business Park

By STEVE BROWN
Real Estate Editor
stevebrown@dallasnews.com

A San Francisco-based data center company has paid \$123 million for a Lewisville commercial building complex.

Digital Realty Trust Inc. said

Monday that it bought the 168-acre Convergence Business Park on State Highway 121. The 10-building complex contains about 819,000 square feet.

Convergence Business Park is almost fully leased, with more than a third of the space occupied by data centers.

"Dallas continues to be a very strong market for us," Digital Realty CEO Michael F. Foust said in a statement. "When combined with

Datacenter Park Dallas in Richardson, located approximately 25 miles from this site, we believe that we will be able to accommodate a large majority of the data center requirements from customers seeking space in the Dallas market."

Digital Realty developed the Richardson data center starting in 2009 at the former Alcatel campus.

Convergence Business Park was built in 1979 as a Texas Instruments

plant. When TI discontinued its operations there, the buildings were converted to house multiple business tenants.

Cassidy Turley Commercial Real Estate has been representing the Lewisville property.

Digital Realty Trust is one of the largest operators of data center facilities.

The company has 102 properties with more than 19 million square feet.

Apartments planned near Frisco mall

El Paso, Dallas developers teaming up on 252-unit luxury rental complex

By STEVE BROWN
Real Estate Editor
stevebrown@dallasnews.com

An El Paso developer is teaming up with a local real estate firm to build a luxury rental project in Frisco.

Hunt Cos. said it has formed a partnership with Dallas' Pegasus-Ablon Development to build the 252-unit apartment complex.

The Ablon at Frisco Bridges project will be constructed east of the Dallas North Tollway and north of



Hunt Cos.

The Ablon at Frisco Bridges apartments will open late this year.

Stonebriar Center mall.

Hunt executive vice president Ryan W. Luxon said the development is in "one of the nation's most compelling and dynamic growth areas."

The apartment community is scheduled to open late this year.

Hunt Cos. is a 65-year-old developer and property investor that has done projects across the U.S.

The company has developed

89,000 housing units plus office, retail and industrial buildings.

PegasusAblon is a private commercial real estate development firm that has managed redevelopment of properties in Dallas' Design District.

FRAUD TRIAL

Stanford's defense rests case

One-time high-flier doesn't testify on charges that he bilked investors of billions

HOUSTON — Attorneys for Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford rested their case Monday without having the once high-flying businessman testify at his fraud trial.

Stanford is charged with bilking investors out of more than \$7 billion.

The jailed financier's attorneys told U.S. District Judge David Hittner that Stanford will not take the witness stand in his own defense. Stanford's attorneys spent about nine days presenting their case, with their final witness testifying Monday. Prosecutors took about three weeks presenting their case.

Closing arguments are set for Wednesday.

Stanford, 61, is accused of orchestrating a 20-year scheme that bilked more than \$7 billion from investors through the sale of certificates of deposit from his bank on the Caribbean island nation of Antigua. Prosecutors also allege that Stanford, whose financial empire was headquartered in Houston, lied to depositors by telling them their funds were being safely invested but instead spent the money on his businesses and lavish lifestyle.

Defense attorneys have tried to show the financier was a savvy businessman whose business empire was legitimate. They have blamed Stanford's former chief financial officer, who was the prosecution's star witness, for the alleged fraud.

They have also told jurors that Stanford was trying to consolidate his businesses to pay back investors when authorities seized his companies.

Stanford is on trial on 14 counts, including mail and wire fraud, and could be sentenced to more than 20 years in prison if convicted. Once considered among the wealthiest people in the U.S., with an estimated net worth of more than \$2 billion, he has been jailed without bond since his indictment in 2009.

The Associated Press

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