Updates to FAASafety.gov

October 31, 2012

For All Users

1. **The online course page has been redesigned**, making it easier for you to use the course catalog, and to find your courses in progress and your list of courses completed. For example, the banner at the top of each section was redesigned to save space, so you don't have to scroll so much. We also created separate listings for courses with AMT Awards Program credits and for WINGS Program credits. This is what it looks like when you first go to that page: (If it doesn't look right, you may have to hit Control-F5, to update the cache of the old style sheet; you may even have to close your Internet browser and start fresh.)

When you click on the Open Link for the Catalog of Available Courses, you are presented with a choice of courses with either WINGS Credit or AMT Award Program credit. Now mechanics don't have to look at pilot courses, and pilots don't have to look at mechanic course; unless you want to of course! We even have a listing for courses that do not have either WINGS or AMT credit!

2. We also included a **new menu link under the Maintenance Hangar tab**, *Courses with AMT Credit*, which takes you directly to the courses with AMT Awards Program credit in the online course catalog. By using this link, our AMT users do not have to search through the entire catalog to find AMT-specific courses.

3. We updated the language displayed when you click on a link on FAASafety.gov that takes you to a non-government website, specifically making it clear that we are not responsible for the content of the other site and that the user is not protected by Federal privacy laws.

4. Did you know you can submit suggestions for safety seminar topics to your local FAASTeam Program Manager? Under the Activities, Courses & Seminars tab, there is a link called "Seminar Topic Suggestions" that allows you to submit your suggestion; the automated email goes directly to your local FAASTeam Program Manager. Give it a try!

5. We were able to find and fix a display issue for Safari users on the My WINGS page. Please keep in mind that if you have Admin privileges as a FAASTeam Representative, Internet Explorer is still the preferred browser.

6. There is a new advertisement on www.FAA.gov that promotes the AMT Awards program, and reminds AMTs that December 31st is the deadline to complete 2012 training.

7. We recently made three other important updates to FAASafety.gov.

    a. The first change added the requirement for users to re-enter their email address when new users register and any time it is changed. This change will resolve the issue of users mistyping their email address and then not being able to access their account.

    b. The 2nd change adds the day of the week, in addition to the date, to seminar displays and emails, to clarify immediately the day of the week for seminars and events.

    c. The 3rd change slightly modifies the descriptive text for the Basic Level topics in the WINGS Program to make it clear that certain issues, such as Top Ten accident causes, are addressed at the Basic Level. Here is what it now says on the My WINGS page and in the appropriate syllabi.

Knowledge Topic 1	Aeronautical Decision Making, including Runway Safety Issues
Knowledge Topic 2	Performance and Limitations, including Loss of Control Issues
Knowledge Topic 3	Preflight Planning, Risk Management, Fuel Management
Flight Topic 1	Takeoffs and Landings
Flight Topic 2	Positive Aircraft Control, including Loss of Control Issues
Flight Topic 3	Basic Flying Skills

8. We fixed a "bug" for WINGS credits, which reminds me we should remind you that WINGS credits are considered "Current" for a period of 12 calendar months. After that, they stay in your record, but unless you have completed an additional credit for that specific topic area, you are not considered "Current" in the WINGS Program. Note however that you never lose a phase of WINGS that you complete! It is always in your record and you can always re-print your completion certificate if needed. The rationale for having WINGS credits expire after 12 calendar months is that we want pilots to update themselves on a regular basis on knowledge and skills that have been accident causal factors. One year was determined to be the most advantageous period. This seems to be the accepted period worldwide for recurrent training, so we adopted it for GA pilots. However, over time, any knowledge fades. Hence, the recurrent training requirement of the WINGS Program. We encourage pilots to earn another phase of WINGS at the Basic Level by renewing their knowledge and skill at least once every 12 calendar months.

9. You may have noticed that if you do not have completed security questions and answers in your preferences, you are now required to complete them before proceeding. We invite you to take an opportunity to use our new Security Questions feature on FAASafety.gov. If you have not yet done so, please log in and go to your "My Preferences/Profile" link (under the Email & Password tab) to choose your own security questions with answers. You will then be able to use this feature to change your own account preferences, including your email address and/or password, even if you have changed or forgotten your email address or password.

10. This is important enough to repeat. When we updated our website to Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), we also updated the way we send emails. This allows us to control the number of emails we send out to bad email addresses. We suspect this change has caused many of our emails to go to your junk or spam folders. You should add or change the Domain Name in your "email options" or "white list" or "allowed domain names" by adding ***@FAASafety.gov**. For example, the entry may say **announce@faasafety.gov** or **info@FAASafety.gov** now; just change that to say ***@FAASafety.gov**.

11. We also changed the way we send new passwords and recovered/forgotten passwords. These passwords will no longer be delayed or misrouted by the new email procedures we implemented.

12. We are continuing to bring new features to FAASafety.gov to give you a better experience! The newest feature is the addition of RSS Feeds for certain pages on FAASafety.gov. Under the Resources tab is now a link to our RSS Feed page. The page looks like this; you can see our first three RSS Web Feeds in the box at the left. Clicking on the RSS icon opens a new page, so you can always get back to your place on FAASafety.gov!

How do you subscribe? Simply look for the orange RSS icon throughout the site. Mouse over the image, right-click, and copy the URL. (Choose "Copy Shortcut" for Internet Explorer, "Copy Link Location" for Firefox, or "Copy Link" for Safari.) In your feed aggregator, select the option that adds a new feed or channel, then paste in the URL and click OK. Click to instantly add content to your page. If your browser supports it, you can simply click on the RSS icon in your browser's address bar and select the feed from there.

13. To make it less confusing, we changed the wording on the credit line for Activities and Courses for those items with AMT credit from the word "Credit" to "Hour" since that is what AMTs earn.

14. We will no longer send an "Expiration Notice" email to users who earn AMT credits. We always remind pilots when their WINGS credits are about to expire, and encourage them to return and complete another WINGS activity. However, AMT credits that AMTs earn do not expire, so there is no need for an expiration email.

15. We made a major enhancement to the AMT Awards Program system for Employers. Last year employers asked if they could upload the annual training record for their employees to the AMT

Awards Program on www.FAASafety.gov. The system, however, expected that individual AMTs would enter their annual training record by using the entry tool available on their My AMT page. Now, starting immediately, for those employers who wish to do so, annual training hours can be uploaded for all their employees at one time. All the employer needs is the employee's email address used on FAASafety.gov for the AMT Awards Program. This new capability for employers is available under their Administration tab on the Affiliates menu; it is called, "**Employer-Provided Training Bulk Upload**."

16. Note that we now display in the AMT Awards portal on the Home Page at FAASafety.gov the number of awards received in the last award year. We hope to exceed that number in this next award year!

17. We revised the Online Course Completion Certificate for courses with AMT Awards program credit to include the necessary elements for providing IA Refresher Training credit for those IAs who choose to use online courses at FAASafety.gov for credit toward their recurrent IA refresher training. The certificate now includes the course number, the course author, and the number of hours of IA credit available.

18. We added additional explanatory text to assist FAASTeam Training Providers to understand better how to use the Create an Activity feature provided for them, especially the Activity Description. This should reduce the inquiries we get about confusing or unclear activity descriptions entered by our industry 3rd party providers.

19. On your WINGS Profile page, you have the opportunity to enter your last Flight Review date. If you have earned a phase of WINGS, the system will enter that completion date as your last Flight Review. If you need to change that date, you can now do so, and the system will confirm the date you enter is not in the future, and not earlier than the currently entered date.

20. We made several editorial changes also, such as bolding text to make information more visible, changing text where it may have been unclear before, adding information on pages to increase understanding, and adding a few administrative helps to make it easier for administrators to remember how to do some things on the site.

For Admin Users

21. When creating a SPANS seminar, the "Is this a CFI Workshop" question now defaults to "Not a CFI Workshop", inasmuch as the CFI Workshop program has ended. Users can still find their completion certificate in the Instructor portal.

22. Since we incorporated "bounced" email procedures last month, we do not send any further emails to users whose email address has bounced back to us more than once. This is typically because a user's email address has changed and they have not updated their information on FAASafety.gov. For your information, we sent over 92,000 post cards advising those users to return to FAASafety.gov and update their email address. Many of those users (over 7,000 as of this writing) sent a request to our Support Desk asking us to make that change. We are working through those emails as quickly as we can!

23. For the enlightenment of FPMs and FAASTeam Representatives, you will note a new line in the distribution statistics for Notices and SPANS seminars when you create a new seminar or Notice. This new line will display the number of bounced email addresses that will <u>not</u> be included in the email announcement you are sending. This is also in the Geo Stats Tool.

Distribution Criteria	
User Preference New Event Notifications	
Total Distribution Statistics	
FAASafety.gov Users	16,525
Users who are not Opted In	1,421
Users with Bounced Emails	2,317
Total Emails to be Sent	12,787
Airmen from the Registry	0
Invalid Postal Addresses	0
Total Postcards to be Sent	0
Grand Total to be Notified	12,787

Line added: Users with Bounced Emails. This number is subtracted from the Total Emails to be Sent and from the Grand Total.

Also, the line that used to say, "Users which are Opted Out", is changed to say, "Users who are not Opted In". This clarifies that this number reflects email preferences selected by users.