



Another checklist reminder

The recent article entitled “Deadly Omissions” [ASW, 12/08, p. 10] was a great review regarding checklist use and design. While we know how easy it is to become complacent about such a critical function as running checklists, a reminder every now and then is certainly worthwhile.

After reading the article, I believe there is one more mitigation strategy that is worth suggesting. At the risk of promoting a piece of equipment or any vendor, there is a device we have had in our cockpits for years that does a very nice job in addressing some of the issues.

Compared to so much of what we have in the cockpit today, the “Heads-Up” voice checklist is relatively low tech and relatively low cost. It includes a light-emitting diode (LED) readout as well as the generated voice announcement of each item, backed up for minimum equipment list purposes by a paper checklist.

While nothing is foolproof, this equipment makes it quite difficult to

simply skip an item and nearly impossible to skip an entire checklist such as the “Taxi” checklist. One area it does not address is the problem of “expectation bias.” It seems that most of the industry considers the “say-look-touch” confirmation technique as just that, pilot technique.

Perhaps it’s time to consider making it part of the SOP.

Keith Baumgart
Aviation Services
Kraft Foods Global
Milwaukee

Honorific from the Pacific

Just wanted you all to know how much I enjoy seeing and reading *AeroSafety World*.

I consider it to be — without question — the best aviation publication of any kind that I have ever seen. It is always extremely readable and interesting (even subjects with the potential to be as dull as ditchwater are made readable and interesting ... as they should be).

Furthermore, it is always attractive to look at and brilliantly laid out.

Thanks very much to all involved for such an outstanding publication. Keep up the great work.

Rob Neil
Pacific Wings Magazine
Amberley, New Zealand

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Write to J.A. Donoghue, director of publications, Flight Safety Foundation, 601 Madison St., Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314-1756 USA, or e-mail <donoghue@flightsafety.org>.