

AA PILOTS FOR ALPA

Check Airman Representation at APA vs. ALPA

A Representational Option at ALPA Carriers

Many line pilots often confuse Check Airmen with “management pilots” due to the nature of their work and their selection process. However, Check Airmen at most airlines are union members, and the Check Airmen of American Airlines are no exception. This article addresses how Check Airmen are represented at AA and contrasts that with representation options at ALPA carriers.

Want to know more? [More detail below!](#)

Check Airman Representation at APA

There are approximately 500 Check Airmen at AA. Check Airmen are union pilots who are part of a local domicile. That means AA Check Airmen are represented the same as any other union pilot: by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of their domicile.

APA also has a Check Airman Committee with five to twelve members who are appointed by the APA President. According to APA’s Policy Manual, this committee provides “APA liaison and assistance on Check Airman specific issues.” At a high level, this committee provides contractual subject matter expertise to Check Airmen and other APA Committees to ensure the Check Airman section of the contract is enforced and maintained.

The committee is not representational in nature. A Check Airman is represented by their respective domicile’s Chair and Vice Chair for disciplinary hearings and for strategic direction given by APA, to include negotiations.

Check Airman Representation at ALPA

At United, Delta, Fedex, Jetblue, Envoy, and other ALPA carriers, Check Airmen have their own Training Local Council, which is the equivalent of an [APA domicile](#). Common reasons for a dedicated Training Local Council include:

- Peer representation in the Flight Office with respect to disciplinary issues
- Representation of Check Airman interests on the MEC for strategic decisions, including negotiations
- Emphasis to the pilot group and management Check Airmen are union pilots and not management pilots

Check Airmen at most ALPA carriers also have a group like the APA Check Airman Committee. Generally, these committees exist to provide subject matter expertise to Check Airmen and other union committees, such as the Negotiating Committee. While these committees provide contractual support, Check Airmen are ultimately represented by their elected representatives in their respective Local Councils.

While many of our peer airlines have dedicated Training Local Councils, it is important to note that they are simply an option afforded by ALPA’s Constitution and By-Laws. When we merge into ALPA, our pilot group will have the ability to decide whether this option is something we want to exercise.

Key Takeaways

- Both APA and most ALPA MEC’s have a dedicated committee of subject matter experts for Check Airman issues
- APA Check Airmen are represented by their local domicile
- ALPA’s Constitution and By-Laws provides for the option to have a dedicated Training Local Council (domicile)
- Most ALPA peer airlines have seen the need for a dedicated Training Local Council

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