

NOTAC

Notice to Aircrew



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| Issued By | Steve Green, CFI (O) SPA |
| Contact Details | 01865 840 347 |

Ballasting of PA 34 Aircraft

With only two crew on board PA 34 Seneca aircraft, it is permissible to load and secure ballast in the rear luggage compartment of the aircraft in order to bring the C of G into the range 89" to 91" aft of the datum.

The purpose of this measure is to mitigate the difference in C of G position between the aircraft in a test configuration (no rear seat pax) and the normal training configuration (1 or 2 rear seat pax) which would otherwise occur. Whilst there is a negligible difference in aircraft handling qualities over the allowable C of G range, handling in the flare and landing with a forward C of G will lead to a flatter attitude that significantly increases the risk of damage to the nose-wheel assembly in the event of a poorly controlled touchdown.

All the above changes will be incorporated into the next edition of the Operations Manual.

Steve Green
CFI (O) SPA

27 June 2011