

# **Common Cockpit Observations**

Back to basics...on a recent trip one of our evaluators found crews from two different top ten carriers not wearing shoulder harnesses as required by the FARs (Part 91.105b) for takeoff and landing. In both cases the crews were coming off an extended period of reserve duty and getting back into flying. In one case, a crew member stated that he couldn't perform his duties while wearing the shoulder harness during takeoff and landing and in the other the highly experienced captain forgot and the error wasn't caught by the first officer. In the last case the aircraft checklists (manual or automated) did not specify shoulder harnesses at any point.

While there is no requirement for this to be a checklist item it is an FAA requirement to wear them and the checklist is a good place to remind us to do the obvious.

Other common observations include pilots not putting on the oxygen mask when the other pilot leaves the seat as required for the altitude, crews doing checklists purely by memory and not using a checklist or referring to a checklist as required by their manuals, and crews not setting the appropriate altimeter setting.

Although these are common observations on our part, they are very basic indicators of airmanship. Don't forget the basics.