



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Review of Air Carriers' Use of Non-Certificated Repair Facilities, Project No. 04A3007A000 Date: March 4, 2004

From: David A. Dobbs 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits Reply to
Attn of: JA-10:x60500

To: John F. Hennigan
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO

At the request of Congressman Oberstar, we are initiating an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) oversight of non-certificated repair facilities. Congressman Oberstar expressed concern that U.S. airlines are relying on aircraft repair facilities that are not certificated by FAA to maintain their aircraft.

Non-certificated repair facilities generally consist of one or more mechanics working under the supervision of an FAA-certificated mechanic authorized to inspect aircraft repairs. When an air carrier uses a non-certificated repair facility, that facility in effect becomes an extension of the air carriers' maintenance organization. FAA relies on the air carrier to determine that the maintenance provider has adequate equipment, facilities, and staff to complete the maintenance work.

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of air carriers' use of non-certificated repair facilities. The objectives of our audit will be to determine:

- (1) how FAA requirements for non-certificated facilities differ from requirements for certificated repair stations;
- (2) how FAA identifies and monitors work performed at non-certificated repair facilities and ensures that air carriers are providing effective oversight of this work; and

- (3) the reasons and extent to which air carriers use non-certificated repair facilities to complete their aircraft maintenance work.

Our audit will include visits to FAA Headquarters and FAA offices responsible for oversight of air carrier maintenance programs and work performed at aircraft repair facilities. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lou E. Dixon, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770 or Tina B. Nysted, Project Manager, at (404) 562-3792.

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cc: FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2
FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100
OST Audit Liaison, M-1