




Memorandum

Date: October 17, 2019

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FAA's Implementation of the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) System
Project No. 19A3009A000
Federal Aviation Administration

From: Matthew E. Hampton
Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits 

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is charged with safely overseeing the busiest and most complex air transportation system in the world, which carries over 2.5 million people on approximately 45,000 flights every day. To enhance safety, FAA and the aviation industry are focused on using data to proactively detect risks and implement mitigation strategies before accidents or serious incidents occur. With FAA's increased emphasis on data, it is important that the processes and tools for analyzing and disseminating these data are effective.

In 2007, FAA and industry partnered with the MITRE Corporation to develop the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) system to promote an open exchange of safety information. For the past 12 years, ASIAS has evolved and drawn together a wide variety of safety data and information sources across Government and industry, including confidential data from air carrier voluntary safety programs.

In 2013, we reported that FAA had made progress with implementing ASIAS, but the system lacked advanced analytical capabilities, and aviation safety inspectors' access to ASIAS confidential data remained limited.¹ The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018² directed us to perform a follow-up review of FAA's ASIAS program to assess the Agency's efforts and plans to improve the system and provide better data access. Accordingly, our objectives will be to assess FAA's (1) progress with

¹ *FAA's Safety Data Analysis and Sharing System Shows Progress, but More Advanced Capabilities and Inspector Access Remain Limited* (OIG Report No. AV2014017), December 18, 2013. OIG reports are available on our website at <http://www.oig.dot.gov/>.

² Pub. L. No. 115-254, October 5, 2018.

implementing ASIAs and plans to improve the system, including its predictive capabilities, and (2) efforts to more widely disseminate results of ASIAs data analyses.

We plan to start the audit later this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at FAA Headquarters in Washington, DC, the Safety Promotion and Analysis Division in Herndon, VA, and selected FAA field offices responsible for oversight of commercial air carriers. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-0500 or Robin Koch, Program Director, at 404-562-3770.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
FAA Audit Liaison, AAE-100