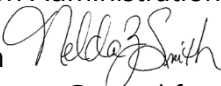




Memorandum

Date: July 6, 2023

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FAA's Efforts to Prevent and Mitigate Runway Incursions at Commercial Airports | Project No. 23A3008A000
Federal Aviation Administration

From: Nelda Z. Smith 
Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

Runway incursions—incidents involving unauthorized aircraft, vehicles, or people on a runway—have been a longstanding challenge for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the aviation industry. Since the beginning of January 2023, there has been a series of incidents where aircraft have come dangerously close to each other on runways, including incidents at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and Boston Logan International Airport. FAA has classified these incidents as serious category A and B runway incursions¹ and, with the recent uptick in these close calls at commercial airports, there has been increased scrutiny on FAA and the aviation industry to address this critical safety issue.

In response, FAA has taken several actions intended to prevent and mitigate these incursions, including a Call to Action by the FAA Acting Administrator that (1) formed a safety review team focusing on the U.S. aerospace system's runway safety efforts; (2) held a safety summit in March 2023 with aviation industry stakeholders; and (3) called for re-examining runway incursion data to identify similar serious runway incursions and indications of emerging trends. Additionally, in May 2023, FAA awarded more than \$100 million in grants to 12 airports to reduce runway incursions, with most of these funds allocated for projects at commercial airports.

In light of the recent serious runway incursions at commercial airports, we are initiating this audit to assess FAA's (1) processes for analyzing data and

¹ Runway incursions are categorized by severity (categories A through D). Category A incursions are the most serious and represent incidents in which a collision was barely avoided. Category B incursions are incidents in which separation decreased and there is a significant potential for collision, which may result in a time critical corrective/evasive response to avoid a collision.

identifying risks associated with runway incursions, and (2) actions for preventing and mitigating runway incursions at primary commercial service airports.

We plan to begin the audit this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at FAA Headquarters and selected field sites. If you have any questions, please contact me or Robin Koch, Program Director.

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