




Memorandum

Date: March 27, 2019

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | Review of Security Controls for FAA's Unmanned Aircraft System Registry | Project No. 19F3013F000
Federal Aviation Administration

From: Louis C. King 
Assistant Inspector General for Financial and Information Technology Audits

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) continue to present one of the most significant oversight challenges for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Given the yearly growth in UAS purchases, along with their increased integration into the National Airspace System, FAA's oversight depends in part on maintaining accurate and complete information on all users (both general public and commercial) who operate small UAS. FAA compiles this information in its UAS registration system, also known as FAA DroneZone. The FAA UAS registration system contains personally identifiable information (PII), including the names and mailing addresses of all registered users. In addition, FAA DroneZone is used to report small UAS accidents as well. As of December 2018, there were more than 1.2 million UAS registered in FAA's system.¹

Because of the volume of sensitive data provided by the general public as well as the importance of UAS user data to FAA's oversight, we are initiating an audit to determine whether FAA's UAS registration system has the proper information security controls and recovery procedures in place.

Our objectives for this self-initiated audit are to (1) assess the effectiveness of FAA's UAS registration system security controls, including controls to protect PII, and (2) determine whether FAA's contingency planning limits the effects caused by the loss of DroneZone during disruptions of service.

¹ FAA Administrator's Fact Book, December 2018.

We plan to begin work immediately and will conduct the audit at FAA Headquarters and facilities, as well as contractor sites as necessary. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1407, or Kevin Dorsey, Program Director, at (202) 366-1518.

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