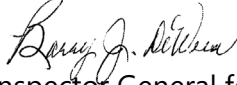




Memorandum

Date: December 21, 2020

Subject: INFORMATION: Follow Up to Audit Request for FAA's Flight Standards Service

From: Barry J. DeWeese 
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and Evaluation

To: The Deputy Secretary

I am pleased to follow up on your letter dated November 13, 2020, requesting that we conduct a performance audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Flight Standards Service and its roles and responsibilities in ensuring aviation safety through oversight of FAA-certificated operators. The importance of Flight Standards' role in promoting safe air transportation cannot be overstated as it oversees operators through inspection, surveillance, investigation, and enforcement. Additionally, FAA has long stated that its effectiveness in promoting aviation safety is due to its data-driven, risk-based oversight approach. As such, we share the Department's belief that it is imperative for FAA to ensure a high level of accuracy and reliability in its oversight records and systems.

In accordance with the Department's request, we are developing plans to determine whether FAA's policies and procedures for documenting and maintaining records are sufficient to facilitate effective oversight of the nation's air operators. We recognize the importance of this review and will prioritize this work within our existing audit portfolio. Per our standard audit process, we will issue a formal audit announcement outlining our objectives prior to initiating our review.

We reiterate our commitment to supporting FAA and the Department in its mission to provide the safest, most efficient airspace system in the world. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 202-366-1302.

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cc: The Secretary
General Counsel