

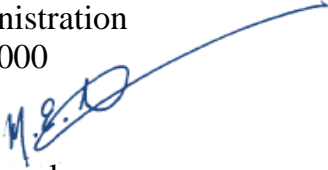


Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –
FAA’s Management of the Civil Aviation Registry
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 18A3003A000

Date: February 28, 2018

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

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) manages the Civil Aviation Registry to process and maintain ownership registrations for aircraft and issue airmen certificates to qualified pilots, mechanics, and other airmen. FAA regulations allow the registration of aircraft owned under trusts, which provides anonymity to U.S. and non-U.S. citizens. Therefore, it is critical that the Registry have sufficient information to ensure aircraft are legally registered and to provide useful data to its users within the law enforcement and aviation safety communities as well as the general public.

Our prior work in 2013 and 2014 found that FAA’s Registry lacked accurate and complete information on pilots and U.S. registered aircraft, including aircraft owned and operated under trusts. FAA committed to take a number of corrective actions in response to our recommendations. We have tracked the overall status of the recommendations but have not examined the effectiveness of these changes in detail.

Citing concerns with oversight issues and recent media reports, the Chairmen of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and its Subcommittee on Aviation as well as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation requested that we assess FAA’s overall management of the Registry and public access to certain Registry elements and its Public Documents Room. They also asked that we highlight changes FAA has made since our last review.

Accordingly, our audit objective is to assess FAA’s management of the Civil Aviation Registry. Specifically, we plan to assess FAA’s (1) controls over the accuracy and completeness of Registry information and compliance with Federal law and (2) policies for providing public access to Registry-related activities.

We will conduct our work at FAA Headquarters and the FAA Civil Aviation Registry Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, OK. We plan to begin the audit next month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-0500 or Marshall Jackson, Program Director, at 202-366-4274.

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