



# Memorandum

U.S. Department of  
Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –  
Review of FAA’s Drug Abatement Program  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Project No. 17A3005A000

Date: June 30, 2017

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

*A. Zickel DAJG  
6/29/17*

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

Effective drug and alcohol testing programs in the transportation industry are critical to ensuring the safety of the traveling public. The National Transportation Safety Board recently highlighted this issue in its 2017–2018 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements, stating that marijuana decriminalization, increased popularity of dangerous synthetic drugs, and a significant rise in the use and abuse of over-the-counter and prescription medication, along with alcohol, have led to an epidemic of impairment in transportation. Given this important safety concern, our office will be conducting a series of reviews on drug testing programs within the transportation industry, beginning with an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Drug Abatement Division.

FAA’s Drug Abatement Division oversees the aviation industry’s compliance with drug and alcohol testing laws and regulations, covering pilots, mechanics, and flight dispatchers at approximately 7,000 regulated aviation companies. The Division accomplishes this task by performing on-site inspections; providing guidance to companies, individuals, contractors, and service agents; and establishing program policies and procedures.

Our audit objective will be to assess the effectiveness of FAA’s Drug Abatement Division’s inspection program. We will conduct our audit work at FAA’s Headquarters and Drug Abatement Division in Washington, DC, and field offices in California, Texas, and Florida. We will also interview selected companies that have had FAA drug abatement compliance inspections completed during the previous 2 years.

We plan to begin the audit this month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Tina Nysted, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770.

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