



# Memorandum

U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –  
Review of FAA Oversight of Suspected  
Unapproved Parts (SUPs)  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Project No. 15A3011A000

Date: August 7, 2015

From: Charles A. Ward   
Assistant Inspector General  
for Aviation Audits

Reply to  
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The safety of the flying public depends on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the aviation industry ensuring that all parts installed on aircraft are approved for flight and properly maintained. Suspected Unapproved Parts (SUPs) are aircraft parts that are suspected of being manufactured without FAA approval or parts that have been intentionally misrepresented (i.e., counterfeit). Since 2007, FAA has issued 70 notifications to the aviation industry specifically related to SUPs. Additionally, in the last 5 years, our office has investigated 118 SUPs cases, which resulted in 63 indictments and 51 convictions.

In March 2015, the Ranking Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Aviation expressed concerns about the risks SUPs present to aviation safety and requested that we review FAA's oversight of SUPs. Accordingly, our objectives are to assess the effectiveness of FAA's (1) process for monitoring and investigating suspected unapproved parts, and (2) oversight of industry actions to remove unapproved parts from the aviation supply chain.

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 Regional Offices, Flight Standards District Offices, and Manufacturing Inspection District Offices.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Tina Nysted, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770.

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