



Memorandum

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Termination Notification | FAA's Role in Authorizing Small UAS Operators in the National Airspace System
Project No. 19A3001A000
Federal Aviation Administration

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

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

On November 8, 2018, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) role in authorizing small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations, including the Agency's automated system called the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC). The objectives for this self-initiated audit were to assess: (1) the impact of LAANC on FAA's review and approval of UAS airspace requests; and (2) FAA's procedures for coordinating and communicating UAS airspace approvals and notifications between airports, FAA air traffic facilities, LAANC service suppliers, and UAS operators.

Due to other priority Department and congressional requests, we temporarily suspended this audit in April 2019 and then terminated it on January 13, 2021. However, we are committed to continued oversight of FAA's processes to integrate UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS). We plan to address similar issues related to FAA's efforts to safely authorize and integrate small UAS operations into the NAS in the coming months. We will notify you by separate memorandum when those new audits are announced.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation of the FAA representatives both in Headquarters and field offices during our initial audit work. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Robin Koch, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770.

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