



Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement - Review
of FAA Regulations and Airline Policies Regarding
Crew Rest Requirements and Fatigue Issues
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 09A3010A000

Date: July 14, 2009

From: *Lou E. Dixon*
Lou E. Dixon
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to JA-10
Attn. of:

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services
and Chief Financial Officer

Human fatigue is an issue that has been on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List since it was created 19 years ago. According to the NTSB, fatigue has been associated with 250 air carrier fatalities in the last 16 years. This issue was recently brought to the forefront with the February crash of Colgan Air flight 3407 in New York that resulted in 50 fatalities. The NTSB's preliminary investigation suggests that pilot training and fatigue may have contributed to the crash.

On May 18, 2009, the Office of Inspector General received a letter from the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security. The Senators expressed concerns regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) regulations governing pilot training and fatigue, industry practices to ensure pilot competence, pilot training programs, and airlines' ability to verify pilot qualifications and requested that we conduct a review of these issues.

Accordingly, the Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of FAA regulations and airline policies (both mainline and regional) governing crew rest requirements and pilot fatigue. The specific objectives of our audit are to (1) identify FAA regulations and airline policies on crew rest requirements and fatigue issues, including the role of pilots' domicile and duty locations; (2) determine how FAA and airlines enforce these regulations and policies; and (3) assess how FAA and airlines

update those policies and procedures to ensure they address changing conditions within the aviation industry.

We plan to hold an entrance conference the week of July 27 and will contact your audit liaison to schedule the meeting. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dan Raville, Program Director, at (202) 366-1405 or Angela McCallister, Project Manager, at (202) 366-1451.

#

cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
Anthony Williams, ABU-100
Martin Gertel, M-1