

ORDER

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

8000.87

8/29/05

SUBJ: SAFETY ALERTS FOR OPERATORS

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes safety alerts for operators (SAFO). SAFOs contain important safety information that is often time critical. A SAFO may contain information alone or a combination of information and recommended (nonregulatory) action to be taken voluntarily by the respective operators identified in each SAFO.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; to the International Field Offices (IFO), Flight Standards Division Offices (FSDO), Certificate Management Offices (CMO), Aircraft Evaluation Groups (AEG) offices; and to the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

3. AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THIS ORDER. The Manager, Air Transportation Division, AFS-200, may issue changes to this order as necessary to implement and manage SAFOs.

4. DISCUSSION. This order establishing SAFOs permits the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reclaim valuable guidance material contained in a discontinued order regarding Air Carrier Operations Bulletins (ACOB), much of which is valid today. It also conveys new important safety information directly to operators as it becomes available. Significantly, SAFOs do not burden FAA inspectors with additional responsibilities not included in their work programs and not processed in accordance with the agreement between the FAA and its inspectors' bargaining unit. Each FAA inspector is encouraged to be familiar with SAFOs generally. Each inspector should pay particular attention to any SAFO applying directly to the operator(s) that he or she oversees. Operators are encouraged to do likewise. The responsibility to implement any action recommended in a SAFO rests with the operator.

5. AUDIENCE. Besides FAA inspectors, air carrier certificate holders (particularly directors of safety (DOS) and directors of operations (DO)), fractional ownership program managers, training center managers, directors of maintenance, and accountable managers at repair stations are the main audience to whom individual SAFOs will initially be addressed (other parties may be addressed at a future time). SAFO information will be added to the Air Transportation Oversight System safety attribute inspection job task items, as required.

6. AVAILABILITY. SAFOs are posted on an FAA public Web site maintained by the Flight Standards Service. The FAA does not distribute hard copies of individual SAFOs. Any person desiring a hard copy may download and print the desired material from the Web site, located at: http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo. SAFOs are dated and are arranged by categories, with the newest SAFO shown first in each category, the oldest shown last.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAFOS. Announcement of a new SAFO posting is by e-mail notification to certain stakeholders in FAA headquarters, regional Flight Standards division and branch managers, and each AEG, CMO, FSDO, and IFO for further distribution within their offices.

8. NOTIFICATION. Principal inspectors affected by a SAFO should become familiar with its content and should make the existence and availability of each pertinent SAFO known to the respective operator's DOS, DO, fractional ownership program manager, training center manager, director of maintenance, or accountable manager at a repair station, as appropriate. Notification can be accomplished by conveying a hard copy of the SAFO itself or by referring the operator's officer to the following FAA public Web site:

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo.

9. LOGGING NOTIFICATION. An inspector should log each notification in the Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS) for each operator notified. Use PTRS code 1030/3030/5030, as appropriate to the inspector's specialty, and show "SAFO xxxxx" [the SAFO number], without the quotes, in the "National Use" field.

/s/ John M. Allen (for)
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Director, Flight Standards Service