

§ 801.3

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§ 801.3 Definitions.

Record includes any writing, drawing, map, recording, tape, film, photo, or other documentary material by which information is preserved, and this definition also applies to section 306(a) of the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974, which requires public access to any information. In this part, *document* and *record* shall have the same meaning.

Chairman means the Chairman of the Board.

Managing Director means the Managing Director of the Board.

Subpart B—Administration

§ 801.10 General.

(a) The Director, Bureau of Administration, is responsible for the custody and control of all Board records required to be preserved under directives of the General Services Administration, issued pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3102.

(b) The Director, Bureau of Administration, shall be solely responsible for the initial determination of whether to release records within the 10 working days' limit, or the extension specified in the Freedom of Information Act.

(c) The Public Inquiries Section, Bureau of Administration, shall:

(1) Maintain for public access and commercial reproduction all accident files containing aviation and surface investigator's reports, factual accident reports or group chairman reports, documentation and accident correspondence files, transcripts of public hearings, if any, and exhibits.

(2) Maintain a public reference room (with self-service duplicator) and, on request, permit the public to inspect public documents during normal working hours.

(3) Maintain copies of public documents, specified in the appendix, for inspection and copying in the public reference room.

(d) Requests for documents must be addressed to the Public Inquiries Section, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, DC 20594. All requests must reasonably identify the record requested, must be accompanied by the fee or agreement (if any) to pay the reproduction costs shown in the fee

schedule (see appendix), and must contain the address and telephone number of the person making the request. The envelope in which the request is sent should be marked prominently with the letters "FOIA." The Bureau of Administration, if there is a failure to comply fully, will attempt to contact the requester immediately to rectify the omission. However, the 10-working-day limit for processing shall not commence until the Bureau of Administration receives a totally correct request.

(e) The field offices of the Board shall not maintain, for public access, records maintained by the Bureau of Administration. If requests are made to field offices, advice will be promptly given as to how to make such requests.

(f) The Bureau of Administration shall maintain a contract with a commercial reproduction firm to accommodate requests for reproduction of accident records. The reproduction charges may be subject to change with each contract renewal.

(g) Requests for documents generated by other agencies or entities will not be processed unless they are contained in the Board's accident files.

(h) Requests for records not yet issued will be held in abeyance until issuance and then processed. The person making the request will be so notified.

(i) No charge will be made by the Board for notices, decisions, orders, etc., required by law to be served on a party to any proceeding or matter before the Board.

(j) Upon approval of the Director, Bureau of Administration, subscriptions to Board publications may be entered without charge for States, organizations, or other entities specified in the fee schedule set forth in the appendix.

§ 801.11 Segregability of records.

The initial decision of the Director, Bureau of Administration shall include a determination of segregability. If it is reasonable to do so, the exempt portions will be deleted and the non-exempt portions will be sent to the requester.

§ 801.12 Protection of records.

(a) No person may, without permission, remove from the place where it is

National Transportation Safety Board

§ 801.30

made available any record made available to him for inspection or copying. Stealing, altering, mutilating, obliterating, or destroying, in whole or in part, such a record shall be deemed a crime.

(b) Section 641 of title 18 of the U.S.C. provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

“Whoever * * * steals, purloins, or knowingly converts to his use or the use of another, or without authority, sells, conveys or disposes of any record * * * or thing of value of the United States or of any department or agency thereof * * * Shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years or both; but if the value of such property does not exceed the sum of \$100, he shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. * * *”

(c) Section 2071(a) of title 18 of the U.S.C. provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

“(a) Whoever willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, or destroys, or attempts to do so, or, with intent to do so takes and carries away any record, proceeding, map, book, paper, document, or other things, filed or deposited * * * in any public office, or with any * * * public officer of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.”

Subpart C—Time Limits

§ 801.20 Initial determination.

An initial determination as to whether to release a record shall be made by the Director, Bureau of Administration within 10 working days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the request is received, except that this time limit may be extended up to 10 additional working days in accordance with § 801.22, of this part. The person making the request will be notified immediately in writing of such determination. If such determination is to release the requested record, such record shall be made available promptly. If such determination is made not to release the record, the person making the request shall, when he is notified of such determination, be advised of (a) the reason for the determination, (b) the right to appeal the determination, and (c) the name and title or positions of each person responsible for the denial of the request.

§ 801.21 Final determination.

A determination with respect to any appeal made pursuant to § 801.20, shall be made by the Managing Director within 10 working days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after receipt of such appeal, except that this time limit may be extended for as many as 10 additional working days, in accordance with § 801.22.

§ 801.22 Extension.

In unusual circumstances as specified in this section, the time limits prescribed in either, but not both, § 801.20 or § 801.21, may be extended by written notice to the person making a request and setting forth the reasons for such extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. Such notice shall not specify a date that would result in an extension for more than 10 working days. As used in this paragraph, “unusual circumstances,” to the extent reasonably necessary to the proper processing of the particular request, means—

(a) The need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the Bureau of Administration;

(b) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request; or

(c) The need to consult with another agency which has a substantial interest in the disposition of the request or with two or more components of the agency having substantial subject-matter interest therein.

Subpart D—Accident Investigation Records

§ 801.30 Field aircraft accident investigations.

Upon completion of the field investigation (normally 60 days after the accident), the Board’s investigator-in-charge shall complete a factual report (with documentation) and send it to the Director, Bureau of Administration, who shall then make the record available to the public for inspection