



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

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Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit on  
FAA's Progress in Reducing Runway Incursions  
and Operational Errors  
Project No. 02A3005A000

Date: December 10, 2001

From: David A. Dobbs  
Deputy Assistant Inspector General  
for Aviation JA-10

Reply to  
Attn of: JA-10; x60500

To: Chris Bertram  
Assistant Administrator for Financial Services/CFO

Runway incursions and operational errors pose very serious safety risks and are critical safety indicators of the Nation's air traffic control system. While there has been a recent decrease in air travel, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must remain vigilant in reducing these incidents. In the past year, we issued two audit reports on FAA's efforts to reduce runway incursions and operational errors and made recommendations for improvements.

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit to evaluate FAA's progress in reducing runway incursions and operational errors. Specifically, we will determine whether the number and rates of runway incursions and operational errors have been reduced, including those incidents that pose the highest threat of a serious accident. We will also determine whether FAA has implemented our recommendations to expedite runway incursion technologies and improve program accountability for completing runway incursion initiatives. With regard to operational errors, we will determine whether progress has been made to reduce operational errors at facilities with the most reported operational errors and whether regional plans are based on facility assessments and specific actions to reduce operational errors.

We will contact your audit liaison officer within the next week to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information,

please contact Mary E. (Liz) Hanson, Project Manager, at (404)-562-3778, or  
Richard Kaplan, Program Director, at (202) 366-1402

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cc: FAA Administrator, AOA-1  
FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2  
FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100  
OST Audit Liaison, M-1