

DOT has proposed that all aviation data collected by the BTS be transmitted via the internet (e-filing). To the maximum extent practicable, the proposed e-filing system will be user friendly.

Automated, built-in data edits would alert filers of incomplete information, thus reducing filing errors and the need for corrective re-processing. E-filing is more secure than attaching files to e-mails. E-filing does not have the size limit constraints encountered by attachments to e-mail submissions. E-filing provides the submitters with immediate confirmation that the filing has been received by BTS. E-filing should eliminate the need for BTS to key punch hard copy records into its various data bases.

During this public meeting, DOT representatives will answer questions about the proposed system, the pilot program and gather additional public comments. A summary of the public meeting will be placed in the rulemaking docket.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 8, 2007.

**Donald W. Bright,**

*Assistant Director, Airline Information,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

#### 14 CFR Part 234

#### Reporting Requirements for Aircraft Gate Returns

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is hosting a public meeting to discuss the reporting of on-time aviation data, specifically the reporting of gate-departure time when an aircraft returns to the gate after an initial gate departure, but before the wheels-off time, and the need to report gate-departure time when the flight is ultimately cancelled.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held June 20, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the new DOT headquarters building at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The room number will be announced at a later date. Persons attending the public meeting must pass through the building security; therefore, we are requesting that you register for attendance by e-mailing or calling Ms. Sharon Herman at

*Sharon.herman@dot.gov* or (202) 366-9059.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, RTS-42, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, telephone number (202) 366-4387, fax number (202) 366-3383 or e-mail *bernard.stankus@dot.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The long tarmac delays that occurred in late 2006 and early 2007 focused public attention on the DOT's Part 234 Airline Service Quality Performance Reports. In reviewing taxi-out times, it was brought to our attention that the air carriers were inconsistent in reporting gate-departure times when an aircraft returned to the gate. Some carriers were reporting the initial gate departure time while others were reporting the "second" gate departure time. There are advantages and disadvantages with both methods.

By reporting the first gate-departure time, the DOT knows the time interval from when the aircraft was ready to depart and when the aircraft actually departed the airport (wheels-off time). However, many times the air carrier is credited with an on-time departure, when in reality the aircraft returned to the gate only to depart well after the scheduled departure time. Also, the taxi-out time is miscalculated, as the time that the aircraft was parked at the gate awaiting re-boarding is counted in the taxi out time.

Reporting the second gate-departure time disguises inconveniences that the passengers endured by making it appear that they were on the aircraft for a much shorter duration before wheels-off time. Some have indicated that the taxi-out time for carriers reporting the second gate departure time is a more accurate assessment of taxi-out times.

During recent snowstorms in the northeast, many flights departed the boarding gates only to spend many hours on the tarmac being de-iced and waiting for improved weather conditions. When the weather deteriorated, flights were cancelled. Historically, carriers have not reported gate-departure times when the flight is later cancelled. During this public meeting, the Department will attempt to clarify the reporting requirements for aircraft that return to departure gates.

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Occupational Safety and Health Administration

#### 29 CFR Parts 1910, 1915, 1917, and 1918

[Docket No. OSHA-2007-0044]

**RIN 1218-AC08**

#### Updating OSHA Standards Based on National Consensus Standards; Personal Protective Equipment

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA is proposing to revise the personal protective equipment (PPE) sections of its general industry, shipyard employment, longshoring, and marine terminals standards regarding the use of eye and face protective devices, head protection, and foot protection. OSHA is proposing to replace the existing references to specific consensus standards with performance language requiring PPE to be constructed in accordance with good design standards. The proposed revision includes guidance for determining what is a good design standard. In addition, OSHA is proposing to add non-mandatory appendices that list standards that constitute good design standards as used in the requirement.

OSHA is also proposing to delete a paragraph in its ventilation standard that requires safety shoes to comply with a specific American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard, and another paragraph in its welding, cutting and brazing standard that requires filter lenses and plates in eye protective equipment to meet a test for transmission of radiant energy prescribed in another specific ANSI standard. In proposing to delete these paragraphs, OSHA intends for this safety equipment to comply with the applicable PPE design provisions in Subpart I of the general industry standards.

These proposed revisions are a continuation of OSHA's effort to update or remove references to specific consensus and industry standards