



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 06018
DATE: 11/8/06

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

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

A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest.

SUBJECT: Notification of Available ADS-B Services to Commercial Operators.

PURPOSE: This SAFO emphasizes the importance of operators ensuring they have procedures for tracking their aircraft, especially in remote areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.

BACKGROUND: The infrastructure for the National Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Program (ADS-B) is not fully operational. Current projections indicate it may be several years until the program is fully operational. The FAA website for ADS-B is found at: <http://www.adsb.gov>.

DISCUSSION: During the ADS-B's interim period, commercial operators are still required to provide flight locating for their aircraft in accordance with 14 CFR part 135, section 135.79.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Until the infrastructure for the ADS-B is fully operational, especially in remote areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, the Director of Operations and Chief Pilots should make use of existing and future, commercially available, flight tracking systems.

Questions concerning this SAFO should be directed to the Commuter, On Demand, and Training Center Branch, AFS-250, at 202-267-8166.