

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

N JO 7210.700

Effective Date:
August 18, 2008

Cancellation Date:
August 17, 2009

SUBJ: Participation in Voluntary Safety Event Reporting

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This Notice restores a policy of FAA support and participation by employees of the Air Traffic Organization for the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) program known as the Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS). The ATO's Safety Services office provides policy interpretations concerning administration of this notice.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to all Washington headquarters, Air Traffic Organization offices including all air traffic field facilities; service center offices; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.
- 3. Where Can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications Web site at http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/air_traffic/publications.
- 4. Procedures.** Amend Federal Aviation Administration Order 7210.56C, Air Traffic Quality Assurance, by adding paragraph 5-1-8f as follows.

CHAPTER 5. AIR TRAFFIC OPERATIONAL ERRORS AND DEVIATIONS, INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING

5-1-8. PERFORMANCE BASED ACTIONS

Title thru e. No change

f. Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP) is the primary means of nonpunitive safety event reporting for employees. For employees not eligible to file an ATSAP report, disciplinary action may not be taken for performance which led to an OE, OD, or Proximity Event (PE) if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The employee's action or lack of action was inadvertent.
- (2) The employee's action or lack of action did not involve a criminal offense, accident, or action under Section 609 of the Federal Aviation Act which discloses a lack of qualification or competency, which is wholly excluded from this policy.
- (3) The employee shows proof that within 10 days after the occurrence of the OE, OD, or PE, he/she completed and submitted, electronically or by mail, a report of the occurrence to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) ASRS.

No further changes

- 5. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following Air Traffic Organization service units: En Route & Oceanic, Terminal, Safety, and System Operations Services; service center offices; Air Traffic

Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center; and all air traffic control field facilities.

6. Background: The FAA and the public have benefited from an Interagency Agreement that was signed in 1976 between the FAA and NASA which resulted in the formalization of the ASRS program. The nonpunitive language since 1976 has served the FAA and the public well. The ASRS was established as the means to proactively identify the precursors involving flight crew and controllers, and to prevent accidents and/or serious incidents through the use of a voluntary reporting system to help identify those precursors. The FAA provided protective provisions to air traffic controllers who voluntarily reported errors or other pertinent safety concerns to NASA under AC 00-46D. This language was removed from one order and incorporated into FAA Order 7210.56 in May 2004, via a GENOT - 7210.580. However, the GENOT expired before the text was incorporated into FAA Order 7210.56. The changes described in this Notice are effective and will be incorporated in the next revision of FAA Order 7210.56.



Bob Tarter
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Air Traffic Organization

8-15-08

Date Signed