



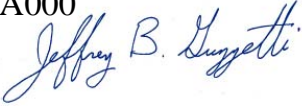
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
FAA’s Implementation of the
Aviation Safety Information Analysis and
Sharing (ASIAS) System
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 12A3002A000

Date: April 12, 2012

From: Jeffrey B. Guzzetti 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-10

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

U.S. air carriers have maintained a remarkable safety record over the last several years. To help maintain this record and further reduce the number of aviation accidents, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has begun moving toward a data-driven approach for airline safety oversight. For example, in 2007, FAA implemented the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) system, a tool that collects and analyzes data from multiple databases to proactively identify and address risks that may lead to accidents. However, access to ASIAS data for most FAA and industry representatives has been limited due to airline proprietary data concerns. Despite FAA’s efforts to better identify risks, the 2009 Colgan Air accident underscored the importance of constant vigilance over aviation safety, including the need to continually improve use of safety data.

To address concerns regarding safety oversight weaknesses highlighted by the Colgan Air accident, Congress enacted the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Extension Act of 2010.¹ The Act includes a requirement that the Office of Inspector General assess FAA’s ability to establish a comprehensive information repository that can accommodate multiple data sources and be accessible to FAA aviation safety inspectors and analysts who oversee air carriers.

¹ Public Law 111-216.

In accordance with the Act, we are initiating this audit to assess FAA's use of information systems for improving air carrier oversight, specifically ASIAs. Our audit objectives are to assess FAA's (1) progress in implementing ASIAs, (2) process and plan for allowing system access at both field and headquarters levels, and (3) use of ASIAs data to assist in commercial air carrier safety oversight.

Our audit will include visits to FAA Headquarters and selected FAA Certificate Management Offices (CMO) responsible for commercial air carrier oversight. We plan to begin the audit the week of April 23, 2012, and we will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Robin Koch, Program Director, at (404) 562-3770.

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cc: Pierre McLeod, AAE-001
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