

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598

DEC 19 2011



Transportation
Security
Administration

Ms. Celeste Clark
National Air Transportation Association
Government and Industry Affairs
4226 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2011, to Secretary Napolitano signed by several of your colleagues concerning the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Aircraft Repair Station Security. The proposed regulation requires that certain repair stations adopt and implement a security program and comply with security directives issued by TSA.

As a result of the comments received during the NPRM public comment period, TSA has worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and conducted extensive research into security measures already in existence at aircraft repair stations. TSA has also completed the review of all pertinent information available to adequately finalize the ongoing rulemaking.

While TSA is sensitive to the issues created by the delay in the publication of the final rule, we have been working diligently to complete this task and to address the issues raised by all industry partners. We anticipate approval and publication of the final rule in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2012 and look forward to working with all industry associations in the implementation of this new regulation.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns with us and hope this information is helpful. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me personally or Mr. James Clarkson, Acting General Manager for the Intermodal Security Support Division, at (571) 227- 3554.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Pistole".

John S. Pistole
Administrator