

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



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

JAN - 4 2012

Mr. Christian A. Klein  
Executive Vice President  
Aeronautical Repair Station Association  
121 North Henry Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2903

RECEIVED  
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Dear Mr. Klein:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2011, concerning the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Aircraft Repair Station Security. The proposed regulation will require 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 from the Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA) and our numerous industry partners, as well as the general public, TSA has worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration 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 have also kept the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) fully informed of the delays in the completion of this rulemaking. We anticipate approval and publication of the Final Rule in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2012. While TSA does not anticipate requesting Congressional action to remove the certification prohibition for new repair stations located outside the United States, should such legislation be introduced TSA will cooperate with Congress. We look forward to working with ARSA and all industry associations in the implementation of this 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 or Mr. James Clarkson, Acting General Manager, TSA Transportation Sector Network Management, Intermodal Security Support Division at (571) 227-3554.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Pistole".

John S. Pistole  
Administrator