



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: September 23, 2014

In reply refer to: A-14-92 through -95

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, DC 20591

On September 9, 2014, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its safety study, *Drug Use Trends in Aviation: Assessing the Risk of Pilot Impairment*.¹ Additional information about this topic and the resulting recommendations may be found in the study, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number SS-14/01.

As a result of this safety study, we issued six new recommendations, including two to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the following four recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration:

A-14-92

Develop, publicize, and periodically update information to educate pilots about the potentially impairing drugs identified in your toxicology test results of fatally injured pilots, and make pilots aware of less impairing alternative drugs if they are available.

A-14-93

Require pilots who are exempt from medical certification requirements to periodically report to you their status as an active pilot and to provide a summary of recent flight hours.

¹ *Drug Use Trends in Aviation: Assessing the Risk of Pilot Impairment*, September 9, 2014, SS-14/01.

A-14-94

Develop and distribute a clear policy regarding any marijuana use by airmen regardless of the type of flight operation.

A-14-95

Conduct a study to assess the prevalence of over-the-counter, prescription, and illicit drug use among flying pilots not involved in accidents, and compare those results with findings from pilots who have died from aviation accidents to assess the safety risks of using those drugs while flying.

Acting Chairman HART, and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Acting Chairman

