National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: November 3, 2016

In reply refer to: A-16-047 through -050

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, DC 20590

On October 27, 2016, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted our safety recommendation report concerning weather information dissemination. Additional information about the two accidents referenced in the report and the findings that led to our recommendations may be found, respectively in the reports of the investigations (CEN15FA044 and CEN15LA137) and the safety recommendation report (ASR-16-005), all of which can be accessed at our Aviation Information Resources web page.

As a result of these investigations, we issued the following four new recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration:

A-16-047

Require air route traffic control centers to adapt all applicable weather reporting stations available in the weather message switching center replacement into their en route automation modernization systems. (A-16-047)

A-16-048

Ensure that air traffic controllers and their supervisors are familiar with all surface weather stations within their area of responsibility, including surface weather stations not located at airports. (A-16-048)

A-16-049

Require training for all air traffic controllers and their supervisors on all available methods and procedures for acquiring surface weather information at airports and other weather reporting stations in the controllers' areas of jurisdiction. This training should include the center weather service units' (CWSU) capabilities in providing immediate tactical weather support to air traffic control; when CWSU support can and should be requested; and how to acquire National Weather Service support when CWSUs are closed. (A-16-049)

A-16-050

Modify your equipment, systems, and/or procedures to ensure that data from all commissioned, nonfederal automated weather observing system (AWOS) III and AWOS IV systems nationwide are directly and timely available to the weather message switching center replacement system and to air traffic controllers at their work stations for providing real-time assistance to pilots requesting weather information along their route of flight. (A-16-050)

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT 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,
Chairman