



U. S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

New York Airports District Office
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Garden City, New York 11530
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February 4, 2000

Dear Airport Sponsor / Airport Consultant:

RE: Runway Safety Area Inventory and Determination

On October 1, 1999, FAA Order 5200.8 titled "Runway Safety Area Program" was issued (copy enclosed). This Order places heightened emphasis on the examination of the Runway Safety Area (RSA) for every runway at every federally-obligated airport, with the aim of reviewing every means to achieve a standard RSA.

What needs to be done?

The Order requires that an inventory of every RSA be performed and a determination be approved by the FAA Airports Division Manager for any non-standard RSA.

When does it need to be done?

At FAR Part 139 certificated airports, an inventory shall be conducted of each RSA and a determination shall be approved by the earlier of the following dates:

- a) by June 30, 2001 (This date was relaxed 1 year from the date in the Order) or,
- b) prior to the start of a project for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation (including overlays), or significant expansion of a runway, regardless of the source of funding.

At federally-obligated non-certificated airports, an RSA inventory shall be conducted and a determination shall be approved prior to the start of a project for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or significant expansion of the runway if the project is funded with AIP or PFC funds.

Who conducts the inventory?

A System Planning grant under the AIP Program has been issued to the New York DOT, and another will soon be issued to the New Jersey DOT, for the

inventory of the RSA's at every airport in the program. The State DOT's will either conduct the inventory themselves or contract for it to be done by a consultant. These inventories will include an analysis of the RSA's compliance with RSA criteria, and an evaluation of the potential of achieving a standard RSA by all practical means, as described in Paragraph 3 of Appendix 2 of the Order.

However, if you are planning a runway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or expansion project this year, you should consider performing an inventory of the RSA's and preparing the determination documentation as described in Appendix 2 yourself, rather than waiting for the State contract survey.

Who prepares the RSA determination?

The RSA inventory information should be furnished to this office. We will prepare the RSA determination in close coordination with you to identify feasible projects to enhance the safety areas and establish a project schedule. The RSA will evaluate all potential means to upgrade a non-standard RSA so that it meets the FAA RSA criteria. Once the RSA determination has been completed and a course of action outlined for improving the RSA, the determination will be approved by the Airports Division Manager.

What happens then?

Once the RSA determination has been completed, this office will pursue AIP funds to support the implementation of the RSA upgrade as recommended in the determination. As you may already know, RSA improvement has been assigned a high priority in the AIP funding priority system.

If you have any questions, please contact your NYADO airport planner or engineer.

Sincerely,



Philip Brito
Manager, New York Airports District Office