

FAA News

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Fact Sheet - FAA Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security Program

The FAA has launched an aggressive and successful hazardous materials program that allows the agency to oversee the air transportation of dangerous goods better than ever before.

In the last two years, the FAA has:

- Increased the dangerous goods workforce by five-fold.
- Conducted more aggressive, realistic, and trend-driven inspections of repair stations, indirect air carriers, air carriers, and shippers.
- Implemented an aggressive outreach and education program to create awareness concerning the regulations and the possible penalties for failure to comply.
- Established a new database to capture the essential data needed for trend analysis to focus our resources.

Today, the FAA is examining virtually every aspect of the transportation of dangerous goods by air. Focused inspections done in coordination with the Postal Service, the Customs Service, the Research and Special Programs Administration and other Department of Transportation offices, have increased industry awareness of the seriousness with which the FAA is actively pursuing persons and companies who fail to comply with the dangerous goods regulations.

Since 1997, the FAA has inspected 770 repair stations, 1,369 shippers of dangerous goods, and conducted 7,452 assessments of air carriers and indirect air carriers. These efforts resulted in more than \$14 million collected over the last three years for hazardous materials violations. The fines do not necessarily mean more violations are occurring, but rather that the FAA now has a greater ability to uncover and respond to violations.

The agency's efforts have increased the numbers of incidents that are reported. In 1998, 1,370 incidents were reported to the FAA for follow-up action. As of the end of August of this year, there were 1,015 reported incidents. For both years, less than 1 percent of the incidents involved passenger air carriers and most were self-reported by industry before the shipments were transported, showing a much greater awareness of the regulations.

The more industry knows about its responsibilities for complying with hazardous materials regulations, the fewer accidents and incidents there will be from improper shipments. The FAA's outreach efforts have been directed toward associations, organizations, and shippers involved in the transportation of cargo. On the FAA's web site, the air cargo industry and the public can obtain guidance on hazardous materials transportation regulations and see press releases on the fines being assessed for improper shipments.

FAA's 2-year-old database of violations and pending cases already is helping to detect trends and identify potential problems. This system is used to target which shippers FAA security agents visit, and determine the order in which the agency inspects freight forwarders and repair stations. This out-front approach is directly in line with FAA efforts to further reduce the accident rate.

More aggressive, realistic, and trend-driven inspections; better outreach; and the ability to track trends have greatly increased the FAA's ability to promote the safe transportation of dangerous goods by air.

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