

SECTION 12. OBSERVING OF AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS FROM AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) FACILITIES (PTRS CODE 1845)

345. OBJECTIVE. Operations inspectors are encouraged to observe air carrier operations from ATC facilities. The purpose of these observations is to ensure that operators comply with ATC procedures.

NOTE: Inspectors are not authorized to conduct inspections of ATC facilities. Inspectors may, however, comment on their observations of these facilities and related ATC procedures through the Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS).

347. GENERAL. This section contains guidance to be used by aviation safety inspectors (ASI's) on the observation of air carrier operations at air traffic service facilities. The workload in control towers, terminal instrument flight rules (IFR) rooms, and air route traffic control centers is especially demanding during instrument weather conditions and peak operational periods. Inspectors should be careful to avoid distracting controllers from the performance of their duties.

A. *Coordination.* The inspector should contact the air traffic facility to coordinate the observation.

B. *Observation.* Inspectors are encouraged to observe operations during IFR weather conditions and during peak operating periods. Inspectors should observe and note the following performance elements:

- Aircraft and ground vehicle compliance with ground operating procedures
- Pilot adherence to approach and departure procedures, ATC instructions, and weather minimums
- Reasons for any missed approaches
- Effectiveness of airport visual aids: lights, signs and markings for ramps, taxiways, and runways
- Effectiveness and dissemination of weather reports
- Effectiveness of reports on the conditions affecting airport operations
- Problems observed by ATC personnel

349. PTRS INPUT. Inspectors should record the activity by using code 1845. In addition, any observed discrepancies should be included in the comment section.

NOTE: The information contained in this report will not necessarily download to the appropriate FAA office by an alternate method (such as by telephone or letter).

350. - 360. RESERVED

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