

# NOTICE

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N JO 7210.962

### Air Traffic Organization Policy

Effective Date:  
August 14, 2025

Cancellation Date:  
January 22, 2026

#### **SUBJ:** Release of Information

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**1. Purpose of this Notice.** This notice amends FAA Order JO 7210.3, Facility Operations and Administration, paragraph 2–1–5 Release of Information, concerning Sensitive Flight Data (SFD) regulations, bolster guidance on proper SFD protection, and assist facility personnel with amplifying information to apply proper discretion when responding to external FAA requests for flight data that contains SFD.

**2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Services, Safety and Technical Training, and all associated air traffic facilities.

**3. Where can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/) and on the Air Traffic Plans and Publications website at [https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/).

**4. Explanation of Policy Change.** This update is intended to provide clarification of Flight Track Data and Sensitive Flight Data (SFD) and the proper handling of such information. The point of contact (POC) to assist in whether a request should be granted, if uncertain, has been updated. Instructions have been added for any request seeking connectivity to FAA Systems for access to NAS data or NAS automation system data.

**5. Action.** Amend the following paragraph in FAA Order JO 7210.3EE, effective February 20, 2025, to read as follows:

#### **2–1–5. RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

**a.** It is FAA policy to make factual information available to persons, properly and directly concerned, except information determined confidential for good cause.

**b.** Flight Track Data is defined in this order as all flight data related to one or more individual flights, inclusive of plot, track, altitude, heading, positional, and identification data (e.g., call sign, aircraft registration number, aircraft type, beacon code, origination, route of flight, and destination). Flight Track Data is contained in any NAS or ATO information system, automation platform, and/or database that contains data on individual flights. Flight Track Data can be contained and provided in digital, written, graphic, or oral form.

**c.** Flight Track Data on sensitive U.S. Government flights conducted for the purposes of national defense, homeland security, intelligence, and law enforcement is considered

Sensitive Flight Data (SFD). SFD contains multiple types of Sensitive Unclassified Information (SUI), which must be protected from unauthorized disclosure as required by Federal law, government-wide regulation, and agency policy. SFD is not marked or identified as SFD or SUI at the facility level, which means that agency personnel have no authoritative method to differentiate between Flight Track Data that is nonsensitive and Flight Track Data that is SFD. Therefore, in instances where agency personnel are unable to validate that certain Flight Track Data is nonsensitive (i.e., not inclusive of SFD), they must protect that Flight Track Data as SUI.

**d.** Except as provided in this and other FAA orders, or when specifically authorized to do so by the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator, agency personnel must not release Flight Track Data to an individual, or entity outside of the FAA in response to any request.

**1.** Agency personnel must not release Flight Track Data to an entity outside the FAA unless it is first determined that the request is being made for an official purpose and/or an ongoing investigation by a U.S. Government agency or law enforcement organization personnel.

**2.** Agency personnel must not release Flight Track Data considered SFD on U.S. Government aircraft conducting military, homeland security, intelligence, law enforcement, presidential, or other sensitive flights to an entity outside the FAA except as operationally required to assist such flights. In the event that the employee is not able to determine if the Flight Track Data being requested is SFD, the employee must not release the data in question except as operationally required to assist that flight.

**3.** Each request must be handled in the following manner:

**(a)** Positively identify the requestor by name, organization or affiliation, and point of contact information (including a telephone call-back number and, if possible, email address).

**(b)** Inquire about the purpose of the request to determine whether the request is being made for an official purpose and by a duly authorized representative of a U.S. Government agency or law enforcement organization in support of an ongoing investigation.

**(c)** For requests received from any U.S. Government agency or law enforcement organization, the only information entered into the facility Daily Record of Facility Operation, FAA Form 7230-4, must be that called for by subparagraph d3(a) above, with a brief notation as to whether the request was granted or not.

**(d)** Notify facility management of all incoming requests.

**4.** If the request is from an individual not associated with any U.S. Government agency or law enforcement organization, the agency personnel must deny the request and may inform the requester that information may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). A FOIA request should be filed in writing with the FOIA Officer, AFN-400, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591, or make an electronic request at [https://www.faa.gov/foia/email\\_foia](https://www.faa.gov/foia/email_foia).

5. If it cannot be ascertained whether the purpose of the request from a U.S. Government agency or law enforcement organization is for an official purpose regarding a time-sensitive issue, agency personnel must contact facility management for guidance. If local management is unable to determine whether or not a request should be granted, the official may contact the National Tactical Security Operations (NTSO) Air Traffic Security Coordinator (ATSC) at (540) 422-4423/24/25.

e. FAA Contract Flight Service Stations (FCFSSs) must handle the release of information in accordance with contract requirements.

f. Any requests made by entities external to the FAA seeking connectivity to FAA systems for access to NAS data or NAS automation system data must first be directed to HQ FAA System Operations Security, Operations Security Plans and Procedures NAS Data Release Board (NDRB) Secretariat via email at [9-AJR-NDRB-Executive-Secretariat@faa.gov](mailto:9-AJR-NDRB-Executive-Secretariat@faa.gov).

**6. Distribution.** This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, and System Operations, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

**7. Background.** FAA System Operations Security, Operations Security Plans and Procedures (AJR-222) is continuing efforts to inform FAA Lines of Business, ATO Service Units, and FAA Field Facilities on the proper identification and protection of Sensitive Flight Data (SFD) concerning sensitive government flights involving national security, homeland defense, intelligence, and law enforcement missions.

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For Jon M. Stowe  
Acting Director, Policy, AJV-P  
Mission Support Services  
Air Traffic Organization (ATO)