

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.129

National Policy

Effective Date:  
07/29/10

Cancellation Date:  
07/29/11

**SUBJ:** National Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program and Air Transportation Oversight System Roll-up Data

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**1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice instructs all principal inspectors (PI) and other assigned aviation safety inspectors (ASI) to use the National Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program (VDRP) and Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) roll-up data reports during their annual planning meeting and quarterly planning review.

**2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is ATOS Certificate Management Team (CMT) PIs and ASIs. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and headquarters.

**3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA Web site at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/). Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public may find this information at: <http://fsims.faa.gov>.

**4. Background.** Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters commissioned an Independent Review Team (IRT) in May 2008 to examine FAA's safety culture and approach to safety management. The IRT published a report, "Managing Risks in Civil Aviation: A Review of the FAA's Approach to Safety," dated September 2, 2008. Recommendation 5.3 in the report stated: "VDRP data have not been routinely analyzed at a higher level within the FAA. There are two quite different purposes for such analysis, both of which the FAA should formally recognize. One purpose treats VDRP data, along with ASAP and FOQA data (and data from many other sources) as a potential contributor to the identification of trends and patterns that represent risks. In this regard, VDRP data becomes one input, among many, for the analytic operations that belong at the heart of the FAA's Safety Management System." Because of this recommendation, we are revising Order 8900.1, Volume 10, Air Transportation Oversight System, to include the requirement for ATOS CMTs to review national VDRP and ATOS data roll-up information during their annual planning meeting and quarterly planning reviews.

**5. Discussion.** PIs assess the air carrier's or applicant's systems and operating environment for indications of hazards or conditions that may create hazards. This process helps highlight any area to focus special oversight attention. PIs first assemble design or performance planning data packages from the Safety Performance Analysis System (SPAS) and other sources. Operations

Research Analysts (ORA) assist, as required. Planning data packages provide information to consider when assessing an air carrier's or applicant's systems and operating environment for hazards. The data are used to update the Air Carrier Assessment Tool (ACAT) and Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP) during the annual planning meeting and quarterly planning review. The data are organized by risk indicator and by system, subsystem, and element. Another important source of planning data is input from CMT or Certification Project Team (CPT) members. Additionally, trends and patterns discerned from analysis of VDRP and ATOS data may be useful in the planning process. VDRP and ATOS roll-up data reports contain this type of information.

**6. Action.** Refer to Order 8900.1, Volume 10, Chapter 2, Section 2, Design and Performance Assessment Planning, paragraph 10-118. In addition to the data sources in that paragraph, PIs also must review the VDRP and ATOS roll-up data reports. These reports are available through the ATOS database in the "News and Documentation" section. To access these reports:

a. Click the link to "News and Documentation" on the ATOS home page.

b. Click the link to "National VDRP and ATOS Roll-Up Data Reports."

c. Under the title, "VDRP Reports."

(1) Click on "VDRP Query Instructions."

(2) Click on the "Voluntary Safety Program Branch (AFS-230)" hyperlink.

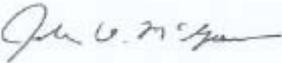
(3) Files are displayed in either an Excel spreadsheet or a PowerPoint presentation.

d. Under the title, "ATOS Reports."

(1) Click on "Analytical Methodology of Exploring ATOS" for information about the reports.

(2) Click on either "National Safety Analysis of ATOS Elements" or "National Safety Analysis of ATOS Carriers."

**7. Disposition.** We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice in FSIMS before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice to the ATOS, AFS-900 Field Support Team for your office. You may find this information under the "Contacts" link on your ATOS home page.



for

John M. Allen,  
Director, Flight Standards Service