



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

August 29, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your August 2 letter requesting the status of "Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools, Competency-Based Training (CBT) and Satellite Facilities for Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools (AMTS)" rulemaking.

On October 2, 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register proposing to revise the regulatory requirements concerning curriculum and operating rules governing Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools. The comment period for that NPRM closed on February 1, 2016. Several commenters suggested expanding the scope of that proposal to allow competency-based training and satellite facilities. The FAA has analyzed these two topics and determined that they would provide options that may increase efficiency and reduce costs in the training of new aircraft mechanics and expand the capacity to recruit and educate future mechanics.

Because these two topics were not proposed in the NPRM, the FAA is required by law to publish a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) seeking public comment. We expect the SNPRM to be ready for publication later this fall, along with a draft Advisory Circular 147-3. After the close of the comment period (which is usually 90 days), the FAA will begin work on a final rule. The FAA is aware of the importance of the AMTS rule and will make every effort to expedite its issuance.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Chris Brown, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator