



U.S. Department of Transportation,
Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140,
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590
January 2, 2026

Petitioner: David Downey, 701 Greymoor Pl., Southlake, Texas 76092, ddowney.das@gmail.com

Specific Section of 14 CFR: 14 CFR §§ 121 and 135

Specific relief sought: require human trafficking awareness training for part 121 and 135 air carriers as directed by Public Law 114-190 and 115-254.

Public Interest: The US Government Blue Campaign is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.¹ It is in the public interest prevent US citizens from becoming victims of human trafficking, identify victims and deter further exploitation.

Background: This petition is for rulemaking to have 14 CFR comply with Public Law 114-190, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016. Section 2113 of the Act, Enhanced Training for Flight Attendants (F/As), amended Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.), Section 44734, to include an additional flight attendant training requirement to the training already required in Section 44734 regarding the service of alcohol. (enclosed) Section 44734 now also includes a requirement that each air carrier provide F/As with initial and annual training regarding recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims. InFO 19002 was published to provide information to part 121 and 135 operators on the new training requirements. (enclosed) To date, the FAA has not amended parts 121 and 135.

On October 5, 2018, the President signed Public Law 115-254, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. Section 408 of the Act, Training on Human Trafficking for Certain Staff, which amends 49 U.S.C. to add Section 44738. (enclosed) This new section expanded the human trafficking training requirement to an additional employee group and requires that “each air carrier shall provide training to ticket counter agents, gate agents, and other air carrier workers whose jobs require regular interaction with passengers on recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.”

A review of 14 CFR §§ 121/135 does not appear to contain any Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Final Rule, or FAA guidance in FAA Order 8900.1 of the required training as detailed above. Further, the required training also included customer service personnel, ticket counter agents, and gate agents.

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/about-blue-campaign>



The national plight of missing and sexual exploitation is well documented. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been at the forefront of this human crime. The DHS Blue Lightning effort is well documented.²

I have personally asked Directors of Operations and/or Chief Pilots of certificated air carriers if they are either aware of or had FAA oversight of compliance with InFO 19002. To date, no person has ever documented carrier compliance or FAA oversight.

The cost of initial/recurrent training is not burdensome. DHS Blue Lightning has training modules available on its website.³

Sincerely,

David Downey

CF: Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne

Enclosures:

49 USC 44734 Training of flight attendants

49 USC 44738 Training on human trafficking for certain staff

FAA InFO 19002 Human Trafficking Recognition and Response Training for Flight Attendants (F/A), Ticket Counter Agents, Gate Agents, and Certain Customer Service Personnel.

² <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-lightning-initiative>

³ <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-lightning-initiative>



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety

800 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20591

January 7, 2026

Mr. David Downey
701 Greymoor Place
Southlake, TX 76092

Dear Mr. Downey:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received and begun processing your petition for rulemaking. This letter acknowledges receipt of your petition, provides an initial assessment of your petition, and describes any additional information that is needed.

The FAA Received Your Petition

This letter is to confirm that the FAA has received your petition dated January 2, 2026, for rulemaking. Your petition has been assigned to Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2026-0038. If granted, the proposed rulemaking would allow the FAA to require human trafficking awareness training for part 121 and 135 air carriers as directed by Public Law 114-190 and 115-254.

Initial Review

Upon initial consideration of the complexity of your request, the FAA currently expects a decision on your petition to take longer than 120 days.

After an initial review, the FAA has determined that your petition contains sufficient information to be accepted by the FAA for review. However, we may require additional information as we continue our review of your request.

The FAA will contact you via Docket No. FAA-2026-0038¹ and by email, if a current email address is provided, with the FAA's final decision on your petition as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to submit additional information that would support your petition request, you may contact the Office of Rulemaking at 9-AVS-ARM320-Exemptions@faa.gov or (202) 267-9677.

Sincerely,

¹ You can find your docket by entering your regulatory docket number at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).
AFS-26-01436-P

/s/

Jermaine Henderson
Program Analyst
Part 11 Petitions Branch
Office of Rulemaking



**U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration**

InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 19002
DATE: 02/19/19
Revised: 12/18/24

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info/all_infos

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements, with relatively low urgency or impact on safety. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Subject: Human Trafficking Recognition and Response Training for Flight Attendants (F/A), Ticket Counter Agents, Gate Agents, and Certain Customer Service Personnel.

Purpose: This InFO provides information to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 and part 135 operators of the statutory requirement to provide F/As and certain customer service personnel with training regarding recognition and response to potential human trafficking victims. In addition, this InFO strongly encourages aircraft owners and operators to post information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline in aircraft lavatories.

Background: On July 15, 2016, the President signed Public Law 114-190, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016 (“the Act”). Section 2113 of the Act, Enhanced Training for Flight Attendants, amends Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.), Section 44734, to include an additional F/A training requirement to the training already required in Section 44734 regarding the service of alcohol. Section 44734 now also includes a requirement for each air carrier to provide F/As with initial and annual training regarding recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.

On October 5, 2018, the President signed Public Law 115-254, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (“the 2018 Act”). Section 408 of the 2018 Act, Training on Human Trafficking for Certain Staff, amends 49 U.S.C. to add Section 44738. This new section expands the human trafficking training requirement to an additional employee group and requires that “each air carrier shall provide training to ticket counter agents, gate agents, and other air carrier workers whose jobs require regular interaction with passengers on recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.”

On December 27, 2022, the President signed Public Law 117-301, the Human Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022 (“the 2022 Act”). The 2022 Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to coordinate with the owners and operators of aircraft to place the contact information of the National Human Trafficking Hotline in the restroom, i.e., lavatory, of each such aircraft. Although it is voluntary, the posting of this information by aircraft owners and operators is strongly encouraged.

Discussion: Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to create

the Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI). BLI trains aviation personnel to identify potential traffickers and human trafficking victims and to report their suspicions to federal law enforcement. The BLI training includes common indicators of human trafficking that aviation employees may encounter and provides aviation employees with in-flight and on the ground methods to report suspected trafficking to law enforcement officers.

To learn more about becoming a BLI partner, and to access the tools made available through the BLI in support of these statutory training requirements, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/stophumantrafficking>.

For DOT awareness materials, including printable aviation-specific posters with the National Human Trafficking Hotline's contact information, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/campaign>.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a national, toll-free hotline that answers calls from anywhere in the United States of America, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. It is not a law enforcement or immigration authority and is operated by a nongovernmental organization funded by the Federal government. The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 1-888-373-7888, and more information can be found at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>.

Recommended Action: Directors of operations and safety, training managers, training program developers and instructors for part 121 and part 135 operators that engage in passenger carrying operations must be aware of the training requirements of 49 U.S.C. sections 44734 and 44738.

Aircraft owners and operators are strongly encouraged to post the contact information of the National Human Trafficking Hotline in the lavatories of their aircraft. Depending on how the information is affixed to the lavatory, approval may be required by the FAA; operators should follow their applicable procedures.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to the DOT at trafficking@dot.gov.

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49 USC 44734: Training of flight attendants

Text contains those laws in effect on January 1, 2026

From Title 49-TRANSPORTATION

SUBTITLE VII-AVIATION PROGRAMS
PART A-AIR COMMERCE AND SAFETY
subpart iii-safety
CHAPTER 447-SAFETY REGULATION

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§44734. Training of flight attendants

(a) TRAINING REQUIRED.-In addition to other training required under this chapter, each air carrier shall provide to flight attendants employed or contracted by such air carrier initial and annual training regarding-

- (1) serving alcohol to passengers;
- (2) recognizing intoxicated passengers;
- (3) dealing with disruptive passengers; and
- (4) recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.

(b) SITUATIONAL TRAINING.-In carrying out the training required under subsection (a), each air carrier shall provide to flight attendants situational training on the proper method for dealing with intoxicated passengers who act in a belligerent manner.

(c) DEFINITIONS.-In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) AIR CARRIER.-The term "air carrier" means a person, including a commercial enterprise, that has been issued an air carrier operating certificate under section 44705.

(2) FLIGHT ATTENDANT.-The term "flight attendant" has the meaning given that term in section 44728(g).

(Added Pub. L. 112–95, title III, §309(a), Feb. 14, 2012, 126 Stat. 64 ; amended Pub. L. 114–190, title II,

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49 USC 44738: Training on human trafficking for certain staff

Text contains those laws in effect on January 1, 2026

From Title 49-TRANSPORTATION

SUBTITLE VII-AVIATION PROGRAMS
PART A-AIR COMMERCE AND SAFETY
subpart iii-safety
CHAPTER 447-SAFETY REGULATION

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§44738. Training on human trafficking for certain staff

In addition to other training requirements, each air carrier shall provide training to ticket counter agents, gate agents, and other air carrier workers whose jobs require regular interaction with passengers on recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims.

(Added Pub. L. 115–254, div. B, title IV, §408(a), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3330 .)

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

AIRPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION GRANTS

Pub. L. 118–63, title VII, §774A, May 16, 2024, 138 Stat. 1299 , provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.-The Secretary [of Transportation] shall establish a grant program to provide grants to airports described in subsection (b)(1) to address human trafficking awareness, education, and prevention efforts, including by-

"(1) coordinating human trafficking prevention efforts across multimodal transportation operations within a community; and