

Factual Report – Attachment 10

Correspondence with the Federal Aviation Administration.

METEOROLOGY

WPR19FA084

*Submitted by: Mike Richards
NTSB, AS-30*

Richards Michael

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 13:18
To: Richards Michael <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NTSB Request 19-097

Hi Mike,

This is in response to NTSB Request 19-097. Please see response below.

Question 1: "Can we confirm that, according to FAA Order 7930.2S, if a National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office reported to Flight Service that an unreliable sensor (e.g., visibility sensor) was operating at a particular ASOS, and that sensor may be providing erroneous information in the ASOS observation, a NOTAM would not be issued for that ASOS?"

Answer: Yes. According to NWS Order # 10-1305, one of the following three criteria must be met for a NOTAM to be requested for ASOS:

Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) Reporting. The aviation observation program needs to be maintained to support aircraft operations. In order that the appropriate NOTAM be issued in accordance with FAA regulatory requirements, the FAA needs to be notified at 1-877-4-US-NTMS (1-877-487-6867) in the event of an ASOS failure when:

- a. The entire ASOS observation is missing and no backup observation is available for long-line dissemination;**
- b. The altimeter setting is missing and is not backed up;**
- c. The date/time group is erroneous and has not been corrected.**

Question 2: "(We understand that ASOS NOTAMs do not get issued using the same criteria as the AWOS because the ASOSs are not monitored and maintained by the FAA). Why does the fact that it is the National Weather Service and not the FAA that monitors and maintains the ASOS mean that NOTAMs can be issued for the ASOS using the same criteria as the AWOS [e.g., subsection (a)-3 identifies "inaccurate/unreliable sensor readings" as a criterion for issuing a NOTAM for an AWOS, but why is that not a criterion for the ASOS even though the National Weather Service monitors and maintains the system]?"

Answer: The NWS determines the criteria for ASOS system availability and FAA Tech Ops determines the criteria for AWOS. NWS derived criteria for ASOS is published in the NOTAM Policy Order and NWS Order # 10-1305.

Have a great day.

Anne

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