

(b) Acting in his or her own name and title, each Assistant Secretary, the Inspector General, or the General Counsel, within his or her sphere of responsibility, is authorized to identify and define the requirements for, and to recommend to the Secretary, new or revised Departmental policies, plans, and proposals. Each of these officers is authorized to issue Departmental standards, criteria, systems and procedures that are consistent with applicable laws, Executive Orders, Government-wide regulations and policies established by the Secretary, and to inspect, review, and evaluate Departmental program performance and effectiveness and advise the Secretary regarding the adequacy thereof.

(c) Except for nondelegable statutory duties, including those which devolve as a result of succession to act as Secretary of Transportation, each Deputy Assistant Secretary, the Deputy Inspector General, and the Deputy General Counsel is authorized to act for and perform the duties of his or her principal in the absence or disability of the principal and as otherwise directed by the principal.

(d) *Inspector General.* The Inspector General shall report to and be under the general supervision of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary. In accordance with the statutory intent of the Inspector General Act to create an independent and objective unit, the Inspector General is authorized to make such investigations and reports relating to the administration of the programs and operations of the Department as are, in the judgment of the Inspector General, necessary and desirable. Neither the Secretary nor the Deputy Secretary shall prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation, or from issuing any subpoena during the course of any audit or investigation.

[Amdt. 1-113, 40 FR 43901, Sept. 24, 1975, as amended by Amdt. 1-157, 45 FR 83404, Dec. 18, 1980; 69 FR 60563, Oct. 12, 2004]

§ 1.25 Relationships.

(a) *Normal staff role.* Normally, the functions of the Assistant Secretaries are staff and advisory in nature. In performing their functions, the Assistant Secretaries are responsible for con-

tinuing liaison and coordination among themselves and with the operating administrations to:

(1) Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort by or in conflict with the performance of similar activities by the operating administrations and the other Assistant Secretaries pursuant to their Secretarial delegations of authority; and

(2) Assure that the views of the operating administrations are considered in developing Departmental policies, plans, and proposals.

The Assistant Secretaries are also available to assist, as appropriate, the operating administrations in implementing Departmental policy and programs. As primary staff advisors to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries are concerned with transportation matters of the broadest scope, including modal, intermodal, and other matters of Secretarial interest.

(b) *Exceptions.* There are exceptions to the normal staff role described in paragraph (a) of this section. In selected instances, the Secretary has specifically delegated to Assistant Secretaries authority which they may exercise on the Secretary's behalf. For example, the Secretary has delegated authority to the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, as appropriate, to decide on most requests to intervene or appear before administrative agencies, subject to the concurrence of the General Counsel. Also, from time to time, activities of an operational character may be delegated to an Assistant Secretary when the nature of the function or its stage of development makes it untimely to effect assignment to an operating administration.

[Amdt. 1-113, 40 FR 43901, Sept. 24, 1975, as amended by Amdt. 1-157, 45 FR 83405, Dec. 18, 1980; Amdt. 1-261, 59 FR 10063, Mar. 3, 1994]

§ 1.26 Secretarial succession.

(a) The following officials, in the order indicated, shall act as Secretary of Transportation, in case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, until the absence or disability ceases, or in the case of a vacancy, until a successor is appointed. Notwithstanding