

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(D), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(A), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security” in first sentence.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(B), substituted “section 114(s)(3)” for “section 114(t)(3)” and “section 114(s)” for “section 114(t)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(C), substituted “The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Not later than 90 days after the date of the submission of the National Strategy for Transportation Security under section 114(t)(4)(A), the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration)” and “section 114(s)(1)” for “section 114(t)(1)”.

2004—Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 108-458 added subsecs. (c) and (d) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (e).

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), (9), substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator” in two places and “of Transportation for Security” for “of the Federal Aviation Administration”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(1), substituted “the Transportation Security Administration” for “the Administration”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

REGULAR JOINT THREAT ASSESSMENTS

Pub. L. 104-264, title III, §310, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3253, which related to joint threat and vulnerability assessments on security at each airport determined to be high risk, was repealed by Pub. L. 118-63, title II, §218(g), May 16, 2024, 138 Stat. 1056.

§ 44905. Information about threats to civil aviation

(a) PROVIDING INFORMATION.—Under guidelines the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration prescribes, an air carrier, airport operator, ticket agent, or individual employed by an air carrier, airport operator, or ticket agent, receiving information (except a

communication directed by the United States Government) about a threat to civil aviation shall provide the information promptly to the Administrator.

(b) FLIGHT CANCELLATION.—If a decision is made that a particular threat cannot be addressed in a way adequate to ensure, to the extent feasible, the safety of passengers and crew of a particular flight or series of flights, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall cancel the flight or series of flights.

(c) GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC NOTICE.—(1) The President shall develop guidelines for ensuring that public notice is provided in appropriate cases about threats to civil aviation. The guidelines shall identify officials responsible for—

(A) deciding, on a case-by-case basis, if public notice of a threat is in the best interest of the United States and the traveling public;

(B) ensuring that public notice is provided in a timely and effective way, including the use of a toll-free telephone number; and

(C) canceling the departure of a flight or series of flights under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The guidelines shall provide for consideration of—

(A) the specificity of the threat;

(B) the credibility of intelligence information related to the threat;

(C) the ability to counter the threat effectively;

(D) the protection of intelligence information sources and methods;

(E) cancellation, by an air carrier or the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, of a flight or series of flights instead of public notice;

(F) the ability of passengers and crew to take steps to reduce the risk to their safety after receiving public notice of a threat; and

(G) other factors the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration considers appropriate.

(d) GUIDELINES ON NOTICE TO CREWS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop guidelines for ensuring that notice in appropriate cases of threats to the security of an air carrier flight is provided to the flight crew and cabin crew of that flight.

(e) LIMITATION ON NOTICE TO SELECTIVE TRAVELERS.—Notice of a threat to civil aviation may be provided to selective potential travelers only if the threat applies only to those travelers.

(f) RESTRICTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—In cooperation with the departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government that collect, receive, and analyze intelligence information related to aviation security, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop procedures to minimize the number of individuals who have access to information about threats. However, a restriction on access to that information may be imposed only if the restriction does not diminish the ability of the Government to carry out its duties and powers related to aviation security effectively, including providing notice to the public and flight and cabin crews under this section.

(g) DISTRIBUTION OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under this section shall be distributed for use by appropriate officials of the Department of Transportation, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and air carriers.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1207; Pub. L. 107–71, title I, §101(f)(7), (9), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 603; Pub. L. 115–254, div. K, title I, §1991(d)(5), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3632.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
44905(a)	49 App.:1358d(a).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, 72 Stat. 731, §321; added Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101–604, §109(a), 104 Stat. 3078.
44905(b)	49 App.:1358d(b).	
44905(c)(1) ..	49 App.:1358d(c)(1), (d).	
44905(c)(2) ..	49 App.:1358d(e).	
44905(d)	49 App.:1358d(c)(2).	
44905(e)	49 App.:1358d(f).	
44905(f)	49 App.:1358d(h).	
44905(g)	49 App.:1358d(g).	

In subsection (a), the words “employed by an air carrier, airport operator, or ticket agent” are substituted for “employed by such an entity” for clarity. The words “or a designee of the Secretary” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsections (c)(1), before clause (A), and (d), the words “Not later than 180 days after November 16, 1990” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (c)(1)(B), the words “when considered appropriate” are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement.

In subsection (e), the words “selective potential travelers” are substituted for “only selective potential travelers” to eliminate an unnecessary word.

In subsection (f), the words “departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government” are substituted for “agencies” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code. The words “However, a restriction on access to that information may be imposed only if the restriction does not diminish” are substituted for “Any restriction adopted pursuant to this subsection shall not diminish” for clarity.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(5)(A), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Secretary of Transportation” and “Administrator.” for “Secretary.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(5)(B), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security”.

Subsecs. (c)(2)(E), (G), (d), (f). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(5)(C), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary”.

2001—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107–71, §101(f)(7), (9), substituted “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security” for “Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration”.

Subsecs. (c)(2)(E), (G), (d), (f). Pub. L. 107–71, §101(f)(7), substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator”.

§ 44906. Foreign air carrier security programs

The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall continue in effect the requirement of section 129.25 of title 14, Code

of Federal Regulations, that a foreign air carrier must adopt and use a security program approved by the Administrator. The Administrator shall not approve a security program of a foreign air carrier under section 129.25, or any successor regulation, unless the security program requires the foreign air carrier in its operations to and from airports in the United States to adhere to the identical security measures that the Administrator requires air carriers serving the same airports to adhere to. The foregoing requirement shall not be interpreted to limit the ability of the Administrator to impose additional security measures on a foreign air carrier or an air carrier when the Administrator determines that a specific threat warrants such additional measures. The Administrator shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1208; Pub. L. 104–132, title III, §322, Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1254; Pub. L. 107–71, title I, §101(f)(7), (9), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 603; Pub. L. 115–254, div. K, title I, §1991(d)(6), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3632.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
44906(a)(1) ..	49 App.:1357(k) (1)–(3).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85–726, 72 Stat. 731, §316(k)(1)–(3); added Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101–604, §105(a), 104 Stat. 3074.
	49 App.:1357 (note).	Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101–604, §105(c), 104 Stat. 3075.

The text of 49 App.:1357(k)(3) and the words “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act” in section 105(c) of the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–604, 104 Stat. 3075) are omitted as obsolete.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115–254 substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security” and, wherever appearing, “Administrator” for “Under Secretary”.

2001—Pub. L. 107–71 substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing and “of Transportation for Security” for “of the Federal Aviation Administration”.

1996—Pub. L. 104–132 reenacted section catchline without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall continue in effect the requirement of section 129.25 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, that a foreign air carrier must adopt and use a security program approved by the Administrator. The Administrator may approve a security program of a foreign air carrier under section 129.25 only if the Administrator decides the security program provides passengers of the foreign air carrier a level of protection similar to the level those passengers would receive under the security programs of air carriers serving the same airport. The Administrator shall require a foreign air carrier to use procedures equivalent to those required of air carriers serving the same airport if the Administrator decides that the procedures are necessary to provide a level of protection similar to that provided passengers of the air carriers serving the same airport. The Administrator shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.”