



Advanced Systems Design Service Team Non-Federal Program Special Notice

May 2023

The Advanced Systems Design Service (ASDS) Team is responsible for managing the Non-federal Technologies Program and provides regulatory oversight of non-federal systems in accordance with the mandates set forth in Title 49 of the United States Code. Our team regulates systems and services that manufacturers intend to sell to non-federal sponsors, as well as operation of those systems and services in the NAS. We review and coordinate system modification approvals and provide integration and oversight support. We also evaluate system designs for new non-federal systems and technologies, ensuring that safety, security, and performance standards are met prior to NAS implementation.

This notice provides important information and guidance that the team believes requires immediate distribution to Inspectors in the field.



Non-federal Automated Weather Observing System Siting

Order JO 6560.20 Revision C Siting Criteria for Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) dated 09/06/2017, Paragraph 1-6. Scope. states, "This order does not require the agency to change existing sensor installations solely to comply with this order. It will be applied as new stations are established."

Based on this language and confirmation by the Office of Primary Responsibility, Surveillance & Weather Group, Weather Systems Team (AJW-141) an AWOS commissioned prior to the publication of JO 6560.20C does not have to meet the changed siting requirements. While the program encourages the sponsor to do everything they can to try to comply with the revised siting, it is not mandatory. AWOS must meet Rev. C requirements if it is:

- A new system installation
- A relocation of an existing system
- An upgrade from an AWOS A or AWOS A/V to an AWOS 1 or better
- Reported by pilots or other users that the sensor readings are not representative of actual conditions

A Non-federal Inspector reported having issues with airport sponsors specifically in reference to the Wind Sensor.

- JO 6560.20B - "... all obstructions ... be no greater than 10 feet above the sensor from 500 to 1000 feet."
- JO 6560.20C - "All obstructions ... be at least 10 feet lower than the height of the sensor from 500 to 1000 feet. ..."

As a result, Inspectors should check the commissioning date of the AWOS installation before enforcing the Rev. C siting requirements.