



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

SEP 18 2009

Mr. Guenther Matschnigg
Senior Vice President
Safety Operations and Infrastructure
International Air Transport Association
800 Place Victoria
P.O. Box 113
Montreal, QC H4Z 1M1
Canada

Dear Mr. Guenther,

Thank you for the follow up from the recent meetings between the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). I look forward to a more detailed discussion of ways in which our organizations and others can share important data to advance global aviation safety.

To that end, I want to acknowledge the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) program and the role that it can help to play in improving aviation safety. Although the FAA does not have any direct oversight responsibilities over ground handling operations, we believe that the aviation industry benefits from all initiatives that are targeted toward safety enhancements. In addition, the FAA recognizes the value of using common safety standards to ensure consistency and efficiency, and our expectation is that ISAGO will help in those areas as well. We hope you are able to use data that is derived from ISAGO for trend analysis and identification of safety improvements needed for ground operations. Every source of data that helps to better focus our collective safety efforts is important.

Thank you again for sharing this information with us and I look forward to meeting with you in the very near future. In the interim, if I can be of any assistance to you please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gilligan
Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT SAFETY, OPERATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE	
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