

Backup Slides:
**Oversight of
Balloon Operations
versus
Other Aviation Sectors**

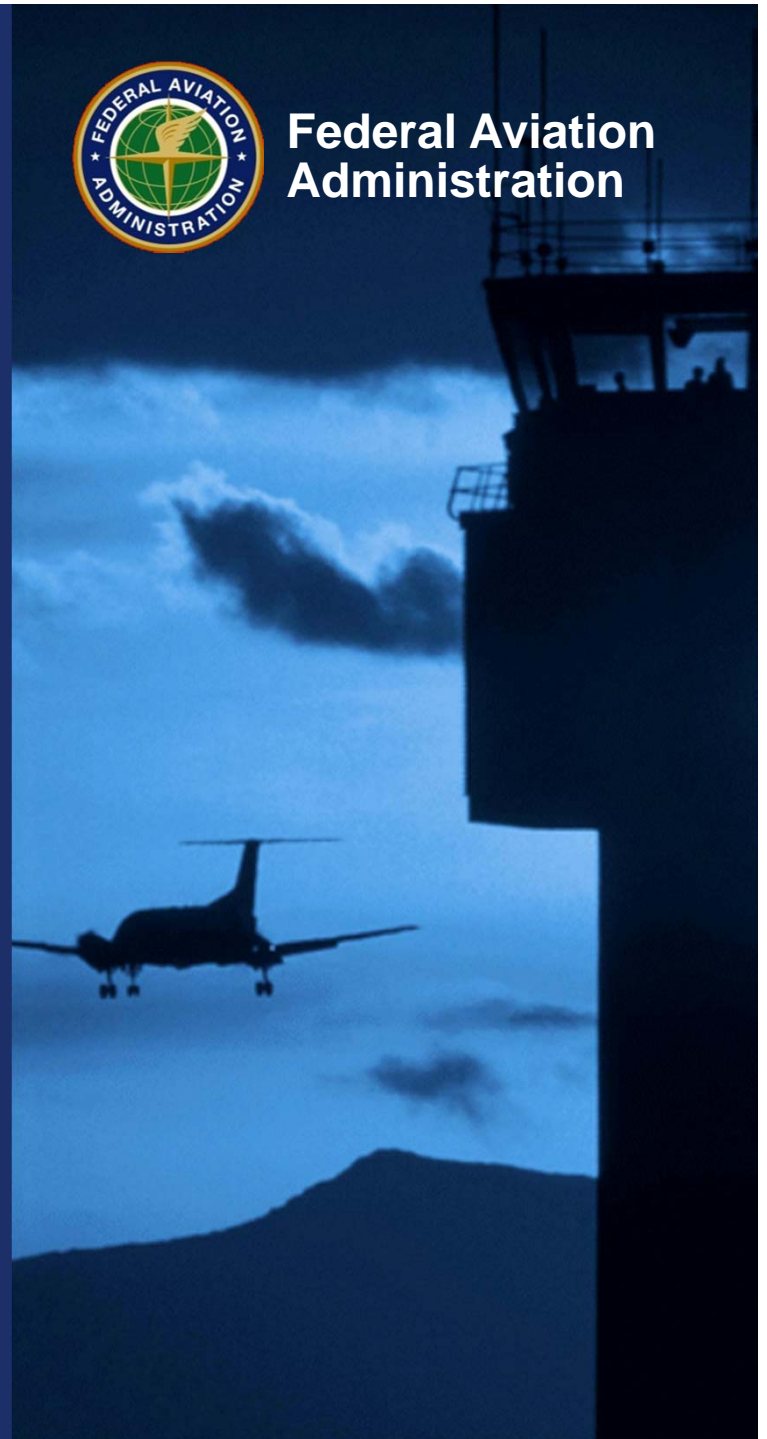
Presented to: NTSB Public Hearing

By: James Malecha; Aviation Safety Inspector

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**Federal Aviation
Administration**



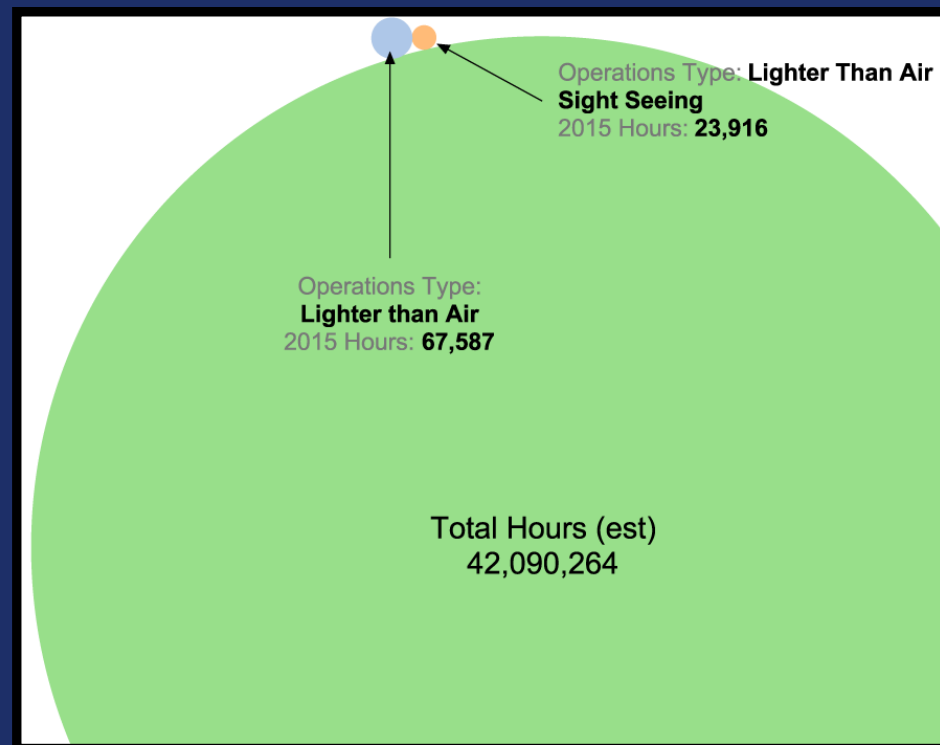
Activity: Balloons vs. General Aviation

Source: *FAA Annual General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey* under the category "lighter-than-air" (category also includes airships).

- Number of active lighter-than-air *aircraft* account for 1.4% of all General Aviation active aircraft.
- Lighter-than-air *hours* account for 0.3% of all General Aviation flight hours
- Balloons used for sightseeing account for 35% of lighter-than-air flight hours

Activity: Balloons vs. All Aviation

<u>Aviation Sector</u>	<u>CY 2015 Hours</u>	<u>Percent of Total Hours</u>
General Aviation (survey)	24,141,864	
Part 121 (estimate)	17,599,000	
Commuter (estimate)	349,400	
TOTAL	42,090,264	
Lighter than Air	67,587	0.161 %
Lighter Than Air Sight Seeing	23,916	<u>0.057 %</u>



FAA Letter of Authorization (LOA)

- LOA Basics
- Applications for LOAs
- Oversight of LOA Holders



Letters of Authorization (91.147)

- Each operator intending to conduct passenger-carrying flights for compensation or hire must apply for and receive an LOA from the Flight Standards District Office nearest to its principal place of business.
- “Operator” means any person conducting nonstop passenger-carrying flights in an airplane or helicopter for compensation or hire that begin and end at the same airport and are conducted within a 25-statute mile radius of that airport.
- An operator must comply with the provisions of the Letter of Authorization received.



Applications for LOA

Applicant must:

- *Provide certain identifying information* such as name, address, place of business, persons responsible, type aircraft, etc.
- *Register and implement its drug and alcohol testing programs.* Information regarding these programs must be included in the LOA application.



Oversight of LOA Holders

- FAA Order 1800.56, *National Flight Standards Work Program Guidelines* - describes oversight requirements for Part 91 Air Tour operators.
- Airworthiness inspectors must conduct two of the following inspections on *10 percent* of the air tour operators that have authorization via a LOA within the region:
 - Ramp check;
 - Spot check;
 - Aircraft records review; or
 - Airworthiness Directive compliance Inspection
- One inspection must be a maintenance inspection and the other must be an avionics inspection

