

**Docket No. SA-539**

**Exhibit No. 2-Q**

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

**Washington, D.C.**

Addendum 1 – FAA statistics

(2 Pages)

In an email response to the NTSB (Request 16-334) on hot air balloon statistics, on November 15, 2016 the FAA provided the following response:

1. **FAA statistics for all commercial balloon operators, including the total number of operators, type of operations (CFR part), and balloon types operated.** The FAA does not track commercial balloon ride operators, as there is no regulatory basis for those operators to be certificated or authorized to conduct those operations. Those operations are conducted under 14 CFR, part 91: General Operating and Flight Rules.
2. **FAA statistics for the total number of balloons currently certificated in the US, with a breakdown of specific ratings and limitations (i.e. hot air, free, lighter-than-air).** The FAA Aircraft Registry has 4,782 valid balloon registrations. All manned balloons are by definition free and lighter than air. The registry does not differentiate between balloons with airborne heaters and gas balloons.
3. **The total number of commercial balloon pilots with lighter-than-air ratings.** The FAA's Civil Aviation Registry indicates 4,670 active US pilots with commercial Lighter-Than-Air Balloon ratings. The FAA considers an active pilot to be one that is under 90 years of age, with an airman certificate issued since July 2003, which is the date of the rule requiring plastic certificates.