



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Memorandum

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Subject: Summary of Launch Final Rule Meeting with
Representatives from the Boeing Company

Date: July 21, 2003

From: René J. Rey, AST-200

To: Final Rule Governing Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch, Docket No. FAA-2000-7953

On July 14, 2003, Patricia Grace Smith (AST-1) and George Nield (AST-2) met with two representatives from the Boeing Company who wanted to reaffirm Boeing's position relative to the launch rule. Boeing still has concerns about the rule; however, they are interested in working with the FAA to address those concerns. Boeing is willing to cover reasonable costs associated with implementation of the rule, but they emphasized the importance of ensuring that these costs are not excessive, given the present condition of the commercial market. The Boeing representatives stated that while they understand that the rule is designed to maintain safety, it could also have the effect of improving safety. AST-1, AST-2 and the Boeing representatives discussed the FAA's upcoming meeting with industry, scheduled for July 22, where industry has been encouraged to bring whomever they would like from their respective companies to the meeting for discussions about areas of concern with the rule. Boeing indicated that it definitely planned to attend and participate fully in these opportunities for further engagement. AST-1 and AST-2 stated that while the frequency of these industry meetings was originally planned on a bi-monthly basis, the FAA would be happy to meet more often as needed.