

Feb. 26, 2004

As a resident who lives in close proximity to a general aviation airport, I am upset and concerned by the FAA proposed Stage IV Standards. This proposal has several flaws:

- 1) The New Standards will not apply to aircraft under 75,000lbs. Although our local airport is considered "non-commercial," it has seen a shocking increase of business jet traffic. The Noise and Emissions of these "sub" 75,000lbs aircraft have an immense impact on our community and my own health/welfare. Our General Aviation Airport and many others across the country no longer just serve recreational prop aircraft but a growing fleet of business aviation aircraft that continue to be unregulated.
- 2) Proposed Stage IV Standards do not include a phase out of older aircraft. European representatives to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference where these proposed standards were formulated pushed for older aircraft (Stage III) phase out, but the United States lobbied and won for no phase out. All other upgraded standards in the past always included a phase out of previous stage aircraft.
- 3) European representatives to ICAO also wanted a stricter 14 decibel noise reduction in newer aircraft. Again, the U.S. lobbied for a lesser 10db reduction that most currently manufactured aircraft can already meet.

Since these standards have already been set and agreed upon by members of ICAO, it is unclear why the organization is soliciting public comment. My sincere hope is that the posting and opportunity for comment is not a panacea, but yet will be a sincere attempt to modify based on public outcry.

Public Comment should be solicited BEFORE the FAA goes to ICAO to represent what they think is in the best interest of the United States. When ICAO meets to set future Stage V Standards, the US delegation must really represent the needs of its citizens including collecting public comment PRIOR to the Conference, stricter Noise Standards for ALL aircraft including those under 75,000lbs, and a phase out of noisier older Aircraft.

Thanks for your consideration.