§ 47102. Definitions

In this subchapter—

(1) “air carrier airport” means a public airport regularly served by—
   (A) an air carrier certificated by the Secretary of Transportation under section 41102 of this title (except a charter air carrier); or
   (B) at least one air carrier—
      (i) operating under an exemption from section 41101 (a)(1) of this title that the Secretary grants; and
      (ii) having at least 2,500 passenger boardings at the airport during the prior calendar year.

(2) “airport”—
   (A) means—
      (i) an area of land or water used or intended to be used for the landing and taking off of aircraft;
      (ii) an appurtenant area used or intended to be used for airport buildings or other airport facilities or rights of way; and
      (iii) airport buildings and facilities located in any of those areas; and
   (B) includes a heliport.

(3) “airport development” means the following activities, if undertaken by the sponsor, owner, or operator of a public-use airport:
   (A) constructing, repairing, or improving a public-use airport, including—
      (i) removing, lowering, relocating, marking, and lighting an airport hazard; and
      (ii) preparing a plan or specification, including carrying out a field investigation.
   (B) acquiring for, or installing at, a public-use airport—
      (i) a navigation aid or another aid (including a precision approach system) used by aircraft for landing at or taking off from the airport, including preparing the site as required by the acquisition or installation;
      (ii) safety or security equipment, including explosive detection devices, universal access systems, and emergency call boxes, the Secretary requires by regulation for, or approves as contributing significantly to, the safety or security of individuals and property at the airport and integrated in-pavement lighting systems for runways and taxiways and other runway and taxiway incursion prevention devices;
      (iii) equipment to remove snow, to measure runway surface friction, or for aviation-related weather reporting, including closed circuit weather surveillance equipment if the airport is located in Alaska;
      (iv) firefighting and rescue equipment at an airport that serves scheduled passenger operations of air carrier aircraft designed for more than 20 passenger seats;
      (v) aircraft deicing equipment and structures (except aircraft deicing fluids and storage facilities for the equipment and fluids);
      (vi) interactive training systems;
      (vii) windshear detection equipment that is certified by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;
      (viii) stainless steel adjustable lighting extensions approved by the Administrator;
(ix) engineered materials arresting systems as described in the Advisory Circular No. 150/5220–22 published by the Federal Aviation Administration on August 21, 1998, including any revision to the circular; and

(x) replacement of baggage conveyor systems, and reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, that the Secretary determines are necessary to install bulk explosive detection devices; except that such activities shall be eligible for funding under this subchapter only using amounts apportioned under section 47114.

(C) acquiring an interest in land or airspace, including land for future airport development, that is needed—

(i) to carry out airport development described in subclause (A) or (B) of this clause; or

(ii) to remove or mitigate an existing airport hazard or prevent or limit the creation of a new airport hazard.

(D) acquiring land for, or constructing, a burn area training structure on or off the airport to provide live fire drill training for aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel required to receive the training under regulations the Secretary prescribes, including basic equipment and minimum structures to support the training under standards the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration prescribes.

(E) relocating after December 31, 1991, an air traffic control tower and any navigational aid (including radar) if the relocation is necessary to carry out a project approved by the Secretary under this subchapter or under section 40117.

(F) constructing, reconstructing, repairing, or improving an airport, or purchasing capital equipment for an airport, if necessary for compliance with the responsibilities of the operator or owner of the airport under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), except constructing or purchasing capital equipment that would benefit primarily a revenue-producing area of the airport used by a nonaeronautical business.

(G) acquiring land for, or work necessary to construct, a pad suitable for deicing aircraft before takeoff at a commercial service airport, including constructing or reconstructing paved areas, drainage collection structures, treatment and discharge systems, appropriate lighting, paved access for deicing vehicles and aircraft, but not including acquiring aircraft deicing fluids or constructing or reconstructing storage facilities for aircraft deicing equipment or fluids.

(H) routine work to preserve and extend the useful life of runways, taxiways, and aprons at nonhub airports and airports that are not primary airports, under guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(I) constructing, reconstructing, or improving an airport, or purchasing nonrevenue generating capital equipment to be owned by an airport, for the purpose of transferring passengers, cargo, or baggage between the aeronautical and ground transportation modes on airport property.

(J) constructing an air traffic control tower or acquiring and installing air traffic control, communications, and related equipment at an air traffic control tower under the terms specified in section 47124 (b)(4).

(K) work necessary to construct or modify airport facilities to provide low-emission fuel systems, gate electrification, and other related air quality improvements at a commercial service airport if the airport is located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area (as defined in sections 171(2) and 175A of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501 (2); 7505a) and if such project will result in an airport receiving appropriate emission credits, as described in section 47139.

(L) a project for the acquisition or conversion of vehicles and ground support equipment, owned by a commercial service airport, to low-emission technology, if the airport is located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area (as defined in sections 171(2) and 175A of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7503 (2); 7505a) and if such project will result in an airport receiving appropriate emission credits, as described in section 47139.
Act (42 U.S.C. 7501 (2); 7505a) and if such project will result in an airport receiving appropriate emission credits as described in section 47139.

(4) “airport hazard” means a structure or object of natural growth located on or near a public-use airport, or a use of land near the airport, that obstructs or otherwise is hazardous to the landing or taking off of aircraft at or from the airport.

(5) “airport planning” means planning as defined by regulations the Secretary prescribes and includes integrated airport system planning.

(6) “amount made available under section 48103” or “amount newly made available” means the amount authorized for grants under section 48103 as that amount may be limited in that year by a subsequent law, but as determined without regard to grant obligation recoveries made in that year or amounts covered by section 47107 (f).

(7) “commercial service airport” means a public airport in a State that the Secretary determines has at least 2,500 passenger boardings each year and is receiving scheduled passenger aircraft service.

(8) “integrated airport system planning” means developing for planning purposes information and guidance to decide the extent, kind, location, and timing of airport development needed in a specific area to establish a viable, balanced, and integrated system of public-use airports, including—

(A) identifying system needs;

(B) developing an estimate of systemwide development costs;

(C) conducting studies, surveys, and other planning actions, including those related to airport access, needed to decide which aeronautical needs should be met by a system of airports; and

(D) standards prescribed by a State, except standards for safety of approaches, for airport development at nonprimary public-use airports.

(9) “landed weight” means the weight of aircraft transporting only cargo in intrastate, interstate, and foreign air transportation, as the Secretary determines under regulations the Secretary prescribes.

(10) “large hub airport” means a commercial service airport that has at least 1.0 percent of the passenger boardings.

(11) “low-emission technology” means technology for vehicles and equipment whose emission performance is the best achievable under emission standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and that relies exclusively on alternative fuels that are substantially nonpetroleum based, as defined by the Department of Energy, but not excluding hybrid systems or natural gas powered vehicles.

(12) “medium hub airport” means a commercial service airport that has at least 0.25 percent but less than 1.0 percent of the passenger boardings.

(13) “nonhub airport” means a commercial service airport that has less than 0.05 percent of the passenger boardings.

(14) “passenger boardings”—

(A) means, unless the context indicates otherwise, revenue passenger boardings in the United States in the prior calendar year on an aircraft in service in air commerce, as the Secretary determines under regulations the Secretary prescribes; and

(B) includes passengers who continue on an aircraft in international flight that stops at an airport in the 48 contiguous States, Alaska, or Hawaii for a nontraffic purpose.

(15) “primary airport” means a commercial service airport the Secretary determines to have more than 10,000 passenger boardings each year.

(16) “project” means a project, separate projects included in one project grant application, or all projects to be undertaken at an airport in a fiscal year, to achieve airport development or airport planning.

(17) “project cost” means a cost involved in carrying out a project.
(18) “project grant” means a grant of money the Secretary makes to a sponsor to carry out at least one project.

(19) “public agency” means—
   (A) a State or political subdivision of a State;
   (B) a tax-supported organization; or
   (C) an Indian tribe or pueblo.

(20) “public airport” means an airport used or intended to be used for public purposes—
   (A) that is under the control of a public agency; and
   (B) of which the area used or intended to be used for the landing, taking off, or surface maneuvering of aircraft is publicly owned.

(21) “public-use airport” means—
   (A) a public airport; or
   (B) a privately-owned airport used or intended to be used for public purposes that is—
      (i) a reliever airport; or
      (ii) determined by the Secretary to have at least 2,500 passenger boardings each year and to receive scheduled passenger aircraft service.

(22) “reliever airport” means an airport the Secretary designates to relieve congestion at a commercial service airport and to provide more general aviation access to the overall community.

(23) “small hub airport” means a commercial service airport that has at least 0.05 percent but less than 0.25 percent of the passenger boardings.

(24) “sponsor” means—
   (A) a public agency that submits to the Secretary under this subchapter an application for financial assistance; and
   (B) a private owner of a public-use airport that submits to the Secretary under this subchapter an application for financial assistance for the airport.

(25) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and Guam.

Footnotes
1 So in original. There probably should be a second closing parenthesis.

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In this section, before clause (1), the words “In this subchapter” are substituted for “As used in this chapter” and “Whenever in this chapter reference is made to . . . such reference shall mean” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code and to eliminate unnecessary words.

Clause (1) restates the definition of “air carrier airport” that was contained in section 11(1) of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 as in effect both on February 18, 1980, and immediately before September 3, 1982. The clause is added to this section to eliminate the cross-references to definitions in section 11 of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 that are contained in the source provisions restated in sections 47106(d) and 47119(a) of the revised title. Because some of the terms used in the definition of “air carrier airport” were themselves defined in section 11, the definitions of those terms are incorporated in the definition added in clause (1) to the extent they differ from the definitions of those terms restated in this section. The words “Secretary of Transportation” and “Secretary” are substituted for “Civil Aeronautics Board” because of the transfer of authority under 49:1551(b)(1)(E).

In clause (2), before subclause (A), the text of 49 App.:2202(a)(21) is omitted as surplus because the complete name of the Secretary of Transportation is used the first time the term appears in a section. In subclause (A)(iii), the words “those areas” are substituted for “thereon” for clarity.

In clause (3)(A), before subclause (i), the words “any work involved in” and “or portion thereof” are eliminated as unnecessary. The word “reconstructing” is omitted as being included in “constructing”.

In subclause (ii), the words “carrying out a field investigation” are substituted for “field investigations incidental thereto” for clarity.

In clause (3)(B), before subclause (i), the word “for” is substituted for “by” for clarity. In subclause (i), the words “required by the acquisition or installation” are substituted for “thereby required” for clarity. In subclause (ii), the word “individuals” is substituted for “persons” for clarity and consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code.

In clause (3)(C), before subclause (i), the words “interest in land or airspace” are substituted for “land or of any interest therein, or of any easement through or other interest in airspace” to eliminate unnecessary words. In subclause (ii), the words “existing airport hazard . . . the creation of a new airport hazard” are added for clarity and consistency in this chapter.

In clause (3)(D), the words “any . . . work involved to” are omitted as surplus. The word “Secretary” is substituted for “Department of Transportation” because of 49:102(b). The words “Administrator of the” are added because of 49:106(b).

In clause (4), the word “near” is substituted for “in the vicinity of” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “obstructs or otherwise is hazardous to the landing or taking off” are substituted for “obstructs the airspace required for the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off . . . or is otherwise hazardous to such landing or taking off” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In clause (6), the words “for a fiscal year . . . for that fiscal year” are omitted as surplus. The words “authorized for grants” are substituted for “made available for obligation” for clarity and consistency. The word “law” is substituted for “Act of Congress” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code. The words “or limited” are omitted as surplus.

In clause (8), before subclause (A), the words “the initial as well as continuing” and “nature” are omitted as surplus. In subclause (C), the words “needed to decide which aeronautical needs should be met” are substituted for “as may be necessary to determine the short-, intermediate-, and long-range aeronautical demands required to be met” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “particular” is eliminated as unnecessary. In subclause (D), the word “prescribed” is substituted for “the establishment . . . of” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code.

In clause (9), the words “scheduled and nonscheduled” are omitted as surplus. The word “cargo” is substituted for “property (including mail)” for consistency in the revised title.
In clause (10), before subclause (A), the words “passenger boardings” are substituted for “passengers enplaned” for clarity. In subclause (A), the words “domestic, territorial, and international”, “in the States”, “scheduled and nonscheduled”, and “intrastate, interstate, and foreign” are omitted as surplus. In subclause (B), the words “who continue on an aircraft in” are substituted for “on board” for clarity. (See Cong. Rec., pp. S15296, 15297, Oct. 28, 1987, daily ed.). The words “that stops” are substituted for “which transit” for clarity. The word “located” is omitted as surplus.

In clause (12), the words “included in one project grant application” are substituted for “submitted together”, and the words “or all projects to be undertaken” are substituted for “including the combined submission of all projects”, for clarity and consistency in this chapter.

In clause (15)(A), the words “or any agency of a State, a municipality . . . other” are omitted as surplus.

In clause (19)(A), the words “either individually or jointly with one or more other public agencies” are omitted as surplus.

In clause (20), the words “the Commonwealth of” and “the Government of” are omitted as surplus.

References in Text


The Clean Air Act, referred to in par. (3)(F), is act July 14, 1955, ch. 360, 69 Stat. 322, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 85 (§ 7401 et seq.) of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7401 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, referred to in par. (3)(F), is act June 30, 1948, ch. 758, as amended generally by Pub. L. 92–500, § 2, Oct. 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 816, which is classified generally to chapter 26 (§ 1251 et seq.) of Title 33, Navigation and Navigable Waters. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1251 of Title 33 and Tables.

Amendments

2003—Par. (3)(B)(X). Pub. L. 108–176, § 142, inserted “; except that such activities shall be eligible for funding under this subchapter only using amounts apportioned under section 47114” before period at end.

Par. (3)(H). Pub. L. 108–176, § 141, inserted “nonhub airports and” before “airports that are not primary airports”.

Par. (3)(J). Pub. L. 108–176, § 159(b)(1)(A), redesignated subpar. (M) as (J) and struck out former subpar. (J) which read as follows: “in fiscal year 2002, any additional security related activity required by law or by the Secretary after September 11, 2001, and before October 1, 2002.”

Par. (3)(K), (L). Pub. L. 108–176, § 159(b)(1), added subpars. (K) and (L) and struck out former subpars. (K) and (L) which read as follows:

“(K) in fiscal year 2002 with respect to funds apportioned under section 47114 in fiscal years 2001 and 2002, any activity, including operational activities, of an airport that is not a primary airport if that airport is located within the confines of enhanced class B airspace, as defined by Notice to Airmen FDC 1/0618 issued by the Federal Aviation Administration and the activity was carried out when any restriction in the Notice is in effect.

“(L) in fiscal year 2002, payments for debt service on indebtedness incurred to carry out a project at an airport owned or controlled by the sponsor or at a privately owned or operated airport terminal financed by indebtedness incurred by the sponsor if the Secretary determines that such payments are necessary to prevent a default on the indebtedness.”


Par. (6). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(6), added par. (6) and struck out former par. (6) which read as follows: “ ‘amount made available under section 48103 of this title’ means the amount authorized for grants under section 48103 of this title as reduced by any law enacted after September 3, 1982.”

Par. (10)(A), (B). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(3), added subpars. (A) and (B) and struck out former subpars. (A) and (B) which read as follows:

“(A) means revenue passenger boardings on an aircraft in service in air commerce as the Secretary determines under regulations the Secretary prescribes; and

“(B) includes passengers who continue on an aircraft in international flight that stops at an airport in the 48 contiguous States, Alaska, or Hawaii for a nontraffic purpose.”


Pars. (12) to (18). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(4), (5), added pars. (12) and (13) and redesignated pars. (10) to (14) as (14) to (18), respectively. Former pars. (15) to (18) redesignated (19) to (22), respectively.

Pars. (19), (20). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(4), redesignated pars. (15) and (16) as (19) and (20), respectively. Former pars. (19) and (20) redesignated (24) and (25), respectively.

Pars. (21) and (22). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(4), redesignated pars. (17) and (18) as pars. (21) and (22), respectively.


Pars. (24), (25). Pub. L. 108–176, § 801(a)(1), redesignated pars. (19) and (20) as (24) and (25), respectively.


Par. (3)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 106–181, § 121(c)(2), inserted before semicolon at end “including closed circuit weather surveillance equipment if the airport is located in Alaska”.


Par. (3)(F). Pub. L. 104–264, § 142(b)(1)(B), struck out “paid for by a grant under this subchapter and” after “airport, if”.


Effective Date of 2003 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 108–176 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 2003, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108–176, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

Effective Date of 2000 Amendment


Effective Date of 1996 Amendment

Except as otherwise specifically provided, amendment by Pub. L. 104–264 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1996, and not to be construed as affecting funds made available for a fiscal year ending before Oct. 1, 1996, see section 3 of Pub. L. 104–264, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

Termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.
Guidance


“(A) Eligible low-emission modifications and improvements.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall issue guidance describing eligible low-emission modifications and improvements, and stating how airport sponsors will demonstrate benefits, under section 47102 (3)(K) of title 49, United States Code, as added by this subsection.

“(B) Eligible low-emission vehicle technology.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue guidance describing eligible low-emission vehicle technology, and stating how airport sponsors will demonstrate benefits, under section 47102 (3)(L) of title 49, United States Code, as added by this subsection.”