

Dear FAA: I live and work near Burbank, California's Bob Hope Airport.

Response (FAA Expert)

12/22/2005 11:15 AM

Neither the commercial operations nor the terminal at Bob Hope Airport are unsafe. The Federal Aviation Administration ensures the safe operation of aviation in the United States and does not allow any in situation that is unsafe.

The articles that you are referring to may concern situations where the location of the terminal building at Bob Hope Airport does not meet current FAA design standards. The FAA develops standards for the layout of airports, including the location of buildings with respect to runways, taxiways, and operating aircraft. These standards are intended to provide adequate levels of safety, as well as utility and capacity for all airports in the United States. They also try to anticipate future aviation demand whenever possible. Although failure to meet FAA design standards is an undesirable situation, please be assured that FAA would never allow safety to be compromised. For example, FAA often imposes operational restrictions or special procedures for situations that might otherwise be unsafe. Restrictions and special procedures may impact the utility or capacity of the airport, but FAA would never compromise safety. FAA does not allow airports to operate if they are unsafe.

There are several policies and procedures for determining if an airport terminal is unsafe. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace and 14 CFR Part 157, Notice of Construction Alteration, Activation, and Deactivation of Airports require that all proposals that could create a hazard to aircraft are carefully and thoroughly reviewed beforehand. Advisory Circular (AC) 15/5300-13, Airport Design describes FAA design standards to assist with compliance with these regulations.

If you want to look up specific regulations and AC's, a good place to start is the FAA Web site. Go to www.faa.gov and click on FAA regulations.