

## EPA proposes endangerment finding to Public Health

**June 2015**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator 'Gina McCarthy' is proposing to find that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from certain aircraft endanger public health and are a contributing factor to air pollution and climate change. The finding will be made under the welfare section 231 (a) of the Clean Air Act (ACT). The EPA has also issued an Advance notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Aircraft are not yet subject to GHG standards within the U.S., but remain the single largest GHG emitter.

U.S. aircraft emit:

- **11 percent** of GHG emissions from the transportation sector in the U.S.
- **3 percent** of total U.S. GHG emissions.
- **29 percent** of GHG emissions from all aircraft globally.
- **0.5 percent** of total global GHG emissions.

### **Affected Aircraft and Exemptions**

Subsonic jet aircraft with MTOM greater than 5,700KG

Subsonic propeller aircraft with MTOM greater than 8,618KG

Examples of aircraft included would range from smaller jet aircraft similar to a Cessna Citation CJ2+, to mid-range airliners such as an Embraer E170 up to and including large aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and Airbus A380.

Exemptions to the proposed finding would include; piston engine aircraft, smaller turbo props, military aircraft, very light jets (VLJs) and helicopters.

### **Advanced Notice of proposed Rulemaking**

In parallel with the endangerment finding the EPA is also issuing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, in which they will seek input in setting an international standard for aircraft at the level of the United Nations (UNs) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Currently the ICAO is due to address a global standardisation for reducing international aviation emissions by 2016. To ensure transparency and standardisation, the EPA will potentially make use of Section 231 of the ACT and adopt and implement the international GHG standard on a U.S. domestic basis, providing that the EPA formally declares a final endangerment finding for aircraft GHG emissions.

More information can be found on the EPA website <http://www.epa.gov/otag/aviation.htm>

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