



Media Release - July 27, 2016

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Receives Excellent Annual Safety Review by the Federal Aviation Administration for the 12th Consecutive Year

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) successfully passed its annual Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Safety and Certification Inspection with no discrepancies, marking its 12th consecutive year without a single deficiency.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires all U.S. airports providing commercial airline services to comply with Federal Aviation Regulations Part (FAR) 139 at all times. FAR Part 139 serves to ensure safety in air transportation and defines the standards within which an airport must operate on a daily basis.

The FAA Certification Inspector focused on runway safety, pavement marking and lighting, safety inspections, wildlife management records, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and many other aspects during the two-day assessment. The inspector performed day and night-time inspections of the airfields and also tested safety and operational processes, including emergency response.

“Safety is always our top priority at PIE. Our Operations, Facilities, and Airport Rescue Firefighting staff’s primary focus is on safety every day of the year, as is as all of PIE’s employees and partners. I am extremely proud of our team, and commend them for their great attitudes and pride in their work” said Airport Director Thomas Jewsbury.

PIE broke its all-time passenger record in 2015, serving over 1.6 million passengers, and we are now in our 4th year of double digit passenger increases. This year’s inspection came in the midst of our 3rd phase of terminal renovation, primarily expanding our Gate 7-10 hold rooms and adding TSA Pre/ lanes at both Passenger Screening Checkpoints.

Aircraft operations are diverse at PIE with 74% general aviation operations; 14% military operations, 11% passenger airlines, and 1% cargo. Our three passenger airlines (Allegiant, Sun Country, and Sunwing) currently serve 53 non-stop destinations.

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