




# Federal Aviation Administration

## Memorandum

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Date: September 27, 2017

To: FAA Lines of Business and Managers with NEPA Responsibilities

From: Katherine Andrus,  Manager Environmental Policy and Operations, Office of Environment and Energy, AEE-400

Prepared by: Sean Doyle, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environment and Energy, AEE-100

Subject: Guidance on determining which version of the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) to use for FAA actions and studies

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This memo clarifies existing policies on the requirement to use the Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) and provides guidance on which version to select.

### Background

As announced in the Federal Register on May 29, 2015 (80 FR 27853), AEDT replaces all legacy environmental modeling tools previously required for predicting noise, fuel burn, and emissions of FAA actions. The requirement to use AEDT extends to all applicable environmental modeling conducted for FAA actions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as other FAA approved studies, such as those under Part 150 or Part 161.

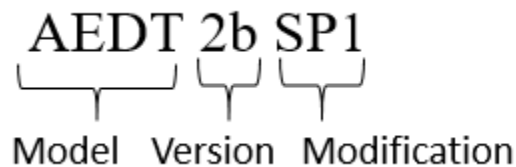
The current version of AEDT is the “latest approved model” referred to in FAA Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policy and Procedures*, Paragraph 4-2.b. The current version of AEDT is also the “FAA approved computer program” for modeling noise under Appendix A of FAA’s Part 150 Airport Noise Compatibility Planning (14 CFR sec. A150.103(a)). Since the initial release in 2015, subsequent versions of AEDT have been and will continue to be produced. The latest version of AEDT becomes the approved model upon its release.

### AEDT Versions and Modifications

AEDT was designed to incorporate new tools and techniques more efficiently than the older legacy tool software platforms, which allows FAA to make timely improvements to address problems, incorporate active research and reflect developing policy. In an effort to make these improvements available as quickly as possible, interim modifications may be released on a more frequent (3-6 month) cycle. Once a number of modifications have been released or advances in the underlying calculations necessitate, a new AEDT version is released. The frequency of these releases may vary subject to ongoing research, program needs and resources.

Releases of AEDT are designated by a version code consisting of a number and a letter, which may be followed by a modification code. Each release of a new version will have a new version code. As modifications are released, a modification code, indicating a service pack or feature

pack, will be appended to the version code. For example, after the release of Service Pack 1, AEDT 2b was designated as:



Modifications of an AEDT version most often provide bug fixes and/or introduce additional features. Modifications are not considered an updated version of the model. Modifications may be used without need for additional AEE approval.

### **Office of Environment and Energy Requirements and Recommendations**

The current version of AEDT is required for all noise, fuel burn and emissions modeling for FAA actions where the environmental analysis is initiated on or after the version release date. As noted in the *Federal Register* and FAA Order 1050.1F, the required model version is the one in effect at the time the “*environmental analysis process is underway.*” Any modifications associated with that version may be used without further review or approval by AEE, but are not required. AEE recommends that FAA lines of business use the most current modifications to the required AEDT version. Where there has been a considerable pause or delay in a project and a new version of AEDT or new modifications have been released since the project’s inception, the project team should consider using the more recent version to ensure that the environmental analysis is based on the most current modeling techniques available.

#### *For Further Information:*

If you have questions regarding this memorandum please contact Katherine Andrus, Manager Environment and Policy Operations, Office of Environment and Energy, AEE-400 at 202-267-9548. For questions regarding AEDT including the support for multiple versions, please contact Joe DiPardo at 202-267-4746 or Mohammed Majeed at 202-267-3703.