

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY



April 9, 2003

[REDACTED]
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your letter of March 26, 2003, to Chief Rossiter asking about the applicability of Virginia House Bill 1516 at the airports has been referred to me for response.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is a public body, corporate and politic, created by an interstate compact between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia. As such, it is not a federal agency, and, although granted powers by Virginia and the District of Columbia, it is independent of them as well. See the Authority's enabling legislation at Virginia Code Section 5.1-152, *et seq.*, D.C. Code Section 9-901, *et seq.*, and 49 U.S.C. Section 49101, *et seq.*

Among the powers granted to the Authority is the power to adopt regulations with the full force and effect of law. One of its regulations, 8.4, forbids anyone from bringing a dangerous weapon (including firearms) to the airport. The full text of all the Authority's regulations is available on its web site, www.mwaa.com, under Publications. We believe that this regulation controls over the more general Virginia Code Section 15.2-915, as amended by House Bill 1516. If you bring a dangerous weapon on to Authority facilities – Ronald Reagan Washington National or Washington Dulles International Airports, the Dulles Access Road, etc.—you will be arrested and charged with violating Metropolitan Washington Airports Regulation 8.4, which is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

I hope this clears up your uncertainty.

Very truly yours,

Naomi C. Klaus
Associate General Counsel

NCK:bb