



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION: Program Information Memorandum  
#1 - Acquiring Paint Machines to Complete  
Enhanced Taxiway Centerline Marking**

Date: March 8, 2008

From: Acting Manager, Airports Financial Assistance  
Division, APP-500

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: PGL Distribution List

We are issuing this Program Information Memorandum #1 (PIM #1) on using sponsor-owned paint striping equipment. The intent of the PIM is to discuss items that are already addressed in FAA published guidance. It does not revise existing guidance, but is intended to provide further explanation on a particular topic.

Some sponsors have asked if they can get an AIP grant for a project to purchase a paint striping machine, because the machine would be used for airfield marking that enhances safety. Paint striping machines are not eligible on a stand alone basis, because the FAA does not require airports to purchase paint striping machines to enhance safety, and the enhancement of safety is the result of the work done with the machines. Rather, the paint striping machines are a tool used to carry out an otherwise eligible airport development project – airfield marking. However a portion of the costs of the paint striping machine might be chargeable to an airfield marking project as an allowable project cost if the sponsor chooses to use the “Force Account” mechanism to accomplish the marking work.

When working by force account, the airport acts as a contractor for the project. In force account work, all purchasing or rental of equipment is paid for by the sponsor, and all labor engaged in work on the project is carried on the sponsor’s payroll.

Construction by contract is considered the more desirable method for AIP projects; however force accounts are permitted under certain circumstances. FAA regional offices are allowed to approve a project done by force account only if it can be done more economically or effectively than regular contract procurement.

If an airport wants to mark the enhanced centerline taxiway markings with their own forces and purchase a paint machine to do the work, they may do so if the use of force account is more economical or effective than using a construction contractor. The use of sponsor-owned equipment is treated as though the equipment was rental equipment. The sponsor may not include the purchase price of the paint machine as an allowable cost of the project. Rather, the sponsor is reimbursed a reasonable rental charge of such

equipment. The rental charge may not exceed the prevailing current local rates for such rentals.

The procedures for using Sponsor Force Account are discussed in detail in Chapter 12, Section 3 of the AIP Handbook.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryon Rakoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Bryon Rakoff