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ATC Vision 100 Retirement FAQs

Air Traffic Controller Retirement Status Update

On Friday, July 15, 2016, President Obama signed H.R. 636, the [FAA Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/636/text) into law. Section 2304 clarifies FAA's historic interpretation of P.L. 108-176 ("Vision 100") to include qualified first- and second-level supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS) service under the enhanced MRA+30 provisions. The following FAQs address the amended language.

FAQs

- What is MRA+30? How is it different from the regular ATC Special Provisions retirement?
- Who is impacted by the change?
- I just submitted my paperwork. How is this going to affect my retirement?
- Will the law take effect immediately?
- Is the law retroactive? Will I get credit for my qualified ATCS supervisory service prior to July 15, 2016?
- What will happen to controllers who already retired?
- How long until I receive a corrected annuity?
- Do the amendments include Flight Service time under the MRA+30 provisions?
- I am a CSRS/CSRS Offset employee, how am I impacted by the air traffic controller change in the FAA reauthorization bill?
- What if I received a retirement estimate last fall with my first- or second-level ATCS supervisory time calculated at the 1%? Can I request a new estimate?
- What if I have more questions not answered here?

Common Retirement FAQs

- How do I request an annuity estimate?
(https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/retirement.html#request_estimate)
- What are the best possible dates for voluntary retirement?
(https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/retirement_faq.html#best-dates)
- How do I apply for retirement?
(https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/retirement.html#apply_for_retirement)

Resources

- Archived ATC Vision FAQs
(https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/atc/atc_vision100_faqs/archive.html)
- Calculator: Federal Ballpark Estimator
(<http://www.opm.gov/retirement>)

What is MRA+30? How is it different from the regular ATC Special Provisions retirement?

Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) + 30 years of service is a second enhanced annuity option for covered 2152s under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

MRA+30 may be a viable option for controllers who have five or more years of civilian ATC frontline (CPC), 1st- or 2nd-level supervisory service, but not the 20 years necessary to vest under the ATC Special Provisions Retirement. It is also an option for controllers who may work beyond the 20 years required for the ATC Special Provisions Retirement with at least 30 years of total Federal service.

H.R. 636 ensures continuation of FAA’s certification of qualified first- and second-level supervisory controller service at the enhanced rate under MRA+30.

The two ATCS enhanced retirement provisions are summarized here:

	ATC Special Provisions Retirement (Regular Controller Retirement)	ATC MRA+30 Enhanced Retirement
Requirements	Age 50 + 20 years of covered ATC service Any age + 25 years of covered ATC service	Minimum Retirement Age (depending on year of birth between age 55 – 57) + 30 years of Federal service (minimum of 5 years covered 2152 service required).
Annuity Calculations	1.7% for any combination of covered 2152 time, including CPC, Flight Service, first- and second-level supervisory time, up to 20 years	1.7% for all CPC, 1 st -/2 nd -level supervisory controller time 1% for all other service

-services/calculators/federal-ball-park-estimator) (OPM.gov)

- Deposits & Redeposits (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/deposits-redeposits.html)
- Retirement (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/retirement.html)
- CSRS (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/csrs.html)
 - CSRS FAQs (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/csrs-faq.html)
- FERS (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/fers.html)
 - FERS FAQs (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/fers-faq.html)

	1% for all other time	
COLA	Included immediately	Begin at age 62

Every retirement is unique. [FAA's Benefits Operations Center \(BOC\)](https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/boc_contact_information.html) (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/boc_contact_information.html) can help answer your specific questions on how this impacts your individual retirement. Call 1-855-FAA-BENE (322-2363) and press option 6.

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Who is impacted by the change?

Controllers with covered civilian first- and/or second-level supervisory service who retired under MRA+30 since December 12, 2003 or who plan to retire under MRA+30 in the future are impacted positively by the change.

The change conforms the law to the FAA's long-standing interpretation of Vision 100 that civilian air traffic control specialists in covered first- and second-level supervisory positions are eligible for an enhanced annuity under MRA+30.

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I just submitted my paperwork. How is this going to affect my retirement?

The FAA Benefits Operations Center will continue to process all controller retirements without interruption. There will be no change to the ATC Special Provisions retirements (20 years of ATC service).

If you qualify for the MRA+30 retirement you will still have two options; the ATC Special Provisions retirement (20 years at 1.7%; 1.0% for every year thereafter) or the MRA+30 retirement (all covered civilian ATC time other than flight service at 1.7%). We are currently seeking guidance from OPM on the certification of current retirement cases according to the amended law. The BOC will not delay retirements.

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Will the law take effect immediately?

The law is effective immediately.

The law requires OPM to create procedures to process recalculations for affected annuitants. At this point it is not clear when OPM will finalize the procedures and communicate them to the FAA. FAA is coordinating with OPM on how to recertify service for those controllers who qualified for MRA+30 and retired with covered first- and second-level supervisory service between October 2015 and July 2016.

Is the law retroactive? Will I get credit for my qualified ATCS supervisory service prior to July 15, 2016?

Yes. The law is retroactive to December 12, 2003. This means all qualified civilian ATCS frontline (CPC), first- and second-level controller service is eligible for enhanced credit under MRA+30, provided that the provision's other requirements (MRA, 30+ years of Federal service, 5 years min. controller time) are met.

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What will happen to controllers who already retired?

Most employees who retired before October 2015 should not be impacted since the FAA was certifying all covered first- and second-level supervisory service as creditable towards the MRA+30 retirement prior to that date.

We are currently seeking guidance from OPM on submitting corrected controller service certifications for those that retired on or after October 2015.

If you believe your annuity was calculated incorrectly, [please contact OPM](https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/contact-retirement/) (<https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/contact-retirement/>).

How long until I receive a corrected annuity?

The resolution process with OPM may take several months. Funds will be credited retroactively.

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Do the amendments include Flight Service time under the MRA+30 provisions?

Unfortunately, flight service time was not defined as eligible for enhanced credit under the MRA+30 provisions of the original Vision 100 law or the recent amendment.

However, flight service time continues to be creditable at the enhanced rate up to 20 years under the ATC Special Provisions Retirement.

I am a CSRS/CSRS Offset employee, how am I impacted by the air traffic controller change in the FAA reauthorization bill?

The MRA+30 enhanced annuity provisions only apply to air traffic control specialists in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). Therefore, CSRS/CSRS Offset employees are not impacted by this decision.

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What if I received a retirement estimate last fall with my first- or second-level ATCS supervisory time calculated at the 1%? Can I request a new estimate?

Yes. Once FAA receives guidance from OPM on certifying qualified ATCS service under the new amendments, FAA will work with its vendor to update the retirement calculator accordingly. For now, the BOC is able to provide ATC Special Provisions Retirement estimates. For those controllers retiring near-term, the BOC will develop a manual solution.

What if I have more questions not answered here?

For questions about ATC retirement, please [contact us at the BOC](https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/boc_contact_information.html) (https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/boc_contact_information.html) at 1-855-FAA-BENE (322-2363) and press option 6.

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https://my.faa.gov/employee_services/benefits_retirement/atc/atc_vision100_faqs.html***