

No Confiscate

The FAA policy on hangar use at airports with federal obligations generally **does not allow for the confiscation of hangars**. Instead, it focuses on ensuring aeronautical use by allowing airport sponsors to permit certain non-aeronautical uses as long as they don't interfere with aeronautical functions. The policy applies to all aircraft storage facilities on federally obligated airports designated for aeronautical use. [1, 2]

- **Aeronautical Use:** The FAA's primary concern is that hangars are used for their intended purpose: storing and working on aircraft. [1, 2]
- **Permitted Non-Aeronautical Uses:** Airport sponsors can allow some non-aeronautical uses in hangars as long as they don't impede aircraft movement or access to aeronautical contents. [1, 2]
- **No Confiscation:** The policy doesn't involve confiscating hangars, but rather ensures that they remain primarily for aviation-related activities. [1, 2]
- **Interim Non-Aeronautical Uses:** Airport sponsors can request FAA approval for interim non-aeronautical uses of hangars for a limited period (3-5 years). [2]
- **Lease Terms and Reversion:** The FAA has policies regarding lease terms, including the possibility of hangar reversion (the hangar returning to the airport's ownership) at the end of a lease. This is particularly relevant when leases are in place for privately owned hangars. [3, 4]
- **50-Year Lease Limit:** The FAA generally expects that no single lease for a hangar exceeds 50 years. Additionally, new leases may not be issued if the cumulative total of leases on a given hangar exceeds 50 years. [4]
- **Reversion for Privately Owned Hangars:** Hangar reversion is required for privately owned improvements (hangars) that exceed 50 years of age. [4]

In essence, the FAA's policy aims to balance the need for aeronautical use with the possibility of some limited, non-interfering non-aeronautical uses, rather than focusing on confiscation of hangars. [5, 6, 7]

[1] <https://www.buenavistaco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2939/FAA17-policy-non-aeronautical-use-of-airport-hangars>

[2] https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_compliance/hangar_use

[3] <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/files/assets/county/v/1/documents/government/airports/airport-fee-and-policy-changes-faq-1.22.25.pdf>

[4] <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2024/march/21/a-candid-reflection-on-faa-aircraft-hangar-leases-and-hangar-reversion-policy>

[5] <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2014/july/24/faa-drafts-new-hangar-policy>

[6] <https://www.avweb.com/flight-safety/new-faa-hangar-policy-common-sense/>

[7] <https://midwestflyer.com/lets-talk-about-hangar-storage/>

