



International Civil Aviation Organization
**Second Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group –
Asia and Pacific Regions (RASG-APAC/2)**
(New Delhi, India, 08 – 09 October 2012)

Agenda Item 3: Member State / Industry Presentations

SAFETY MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GROUP

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

Safety management is becoming the standard for aviation safety worldwide. As such, it is most beneficial for the international community to harmonize safety management activities; collaborate on common topics of interest; share lessons learned and ensure the progression of harmonized Safety Management Systems (SMS) and State Safety Programs (SSP). To garner these benefits, the United States (US) Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aviation Safety Organization along with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) initiated the Safety Management International Collaboration Group (SM ICG). The purpose of this group is to promote a common understanding of safety management principles and requirements, facilitating their application across the global aviation community. This paper will provide further details regarding this group and summarize current and future plans of the SM ICG.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requires SMS for the management of safety risk in air operations, maintenance, air traffic services and aerodromes. These requirements have recently been expanded to include flight training and design and manufacture of aircraft. Additionally, ICAO has published safety management requirements for States by mandating that States establish a State Safety Program in order to achieve acceptable safety performance in their civil aviation systems.

1.2 Considering the prominence of safety management in ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and noting its universal applicability, it is most beneficial for civil aviation authorities not only to harmonize their SMS and SSP requirements and implementation activities, but also to collaborate on safety management related topics of common interest. Collaboration between civil aviation authorities will help avoid duplication of efforts and enable better sharing of information. Additionally, sharing methods and tools will assist in developing robust and affordable safety management systems. Aviation industry organizations will also greatly benefit from SMS requirement harmonization among regulators, since many companies hold multiple certificate types in multiple States.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The SM ICG was established in 2009 following an initiative from EASA, FAA Aviation Safety Organization, ICAO, and TCCA. ICAO has since become an observer to the group, and the Aviation Safety and Security Agency of Spain, the National Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Netherlands, the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia, the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile of France, the Federal Office of Civil Aviation of Switzerland, the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau, and the Civil Aviation Authority of United Kingdom have joined this group. The SM ICG holds bi-annual plenary meetings complemented by both regular teleconferences and dedicated workgroup meetings.

2.2 The SM ICG is comprised of experts that possess significant experience in SSP/SMS implementation within their member organizations. This body of experts allows for the leveraging of knowledge and experience gathered within the different member organizations for the benefit of the global civil aviation community. This expertise has been frequently demonstrated through the work of the ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP), to which States represented in both the SM ICG and the SMP have nominated their SM ICG expert as an SMP member.

2.3 The SM ICG interfaces with various stakeholders in the aviation system, including industry members and groups, the Commercial Aviation Safety Team, the European Commercial Aviation Safety Team, other comparable organizations, and civil aviation authorities that have implemented or are implementing SMS.

2.4 Thus far three workgroups have been established: Documentation, Measurements, and Standardization. The Documentation Workgroup has developed and continues to develop and share SMS/SSP best practices, guidance material, and SMS assessment tools. The Measurements Workgroup has developed a framework for common safety performance measurement. It will also develop a methodology for setting safety expectations and make recommendations for safety performance metrics. The Standardization Workgroup is developing a common taxonomy for hazards. This group is also developing recommendations for utilizing data for risk-based decision making and for common safety management terminology.

2.5 Current SM ICG products emphasize the importance of harmonized implementation of SMS, focusing on technical equivalence in SMS performance. This has included developing:

- a clear and concise description of SMS;
- a set of hazard categories, to be further developed to include examples of hazards;
- a framework and tool for evaluating a service provider's SMS;
- guidance on management's role in SMS;
- a common approach to measuring safety performance at a State level and at the individual service provider level; and
- a common set of safety management related terminology and definitions.

2.6 Future work will continue to focus on providing implementation support, both for States (SSP) and service providers (SMS), in the form of guidance material, training material, and criteria for inspector skills. The SM ICG is considering some new projects, including development of common criteria for risk acceptance and a methodology for joint safety assessments.

2.7 The SM ICG provides outreach to industry and the international aviation community and disseminates its products via SKYbrary:
[http://www.skybrary.aero/index.php/Safety_Management_International_Collaboration_Group_\(SM_ICG\)](http://www.skybrary.aero/index.php/Safety_Management_International_Collaboration_Group_(SM_ICG))

¹ This paper was prepared in collaboration with Safety Management International Collaboration Group (SM ICG) member civil aviation authorities from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Aviation Safety Agency, France, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 SMS is becoming the standard for safety worldwide, thus it is most beneficial for regulators to harmonize their SMS efforts, collaborate on common topics of interest, share lessons learned, and ensure the progression of a harmonized SMS. The SM ICG has sufficient resources and invaluable SMS expertise to address this very important subject. The group's main objective is to encourage SMS and SSP collaboration and share the products with the larger international aviation community.

4. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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