



**FAA
Airports**

SMS Statement

On Monday, December 10, 2012, the Department of Transportation posted its monthly Significant Rulemaking Report for December 2012. (See <http://www.dot.gov/regulations/report-on-significant-rulemakings>). The December 2012 report amends the next stage for the Airport Safety Management System (SMS) rulemaking ([Docket Number FAA-2010-0997](#)) as a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM).

The FAA received many helpful comments with insights on benefits and costs from the public to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published in October 2010. The FAA carefully considered these comments, and in light of the information received, the FAA decided to modify our proposal and provide another opportunity for public comment on the modifications through our SNPRM process. While the SNPRM is currently under development, the agency anticipates offering changes to the rule's applicability and some proposed requirements. Specifically, the FAA is evaluating several options for SMS at various classes of Part 139 certificated airports to improve the implement ability of SMS. The FAA also is considering changes to SMS implementation and some SMS elements to reduce the burden on an airport implementing SMS.

Over 30 certificated airports are already developing and implementing SMS. Safety experts worldwide view SMS as the next major step to increase safety in aviation. The FAA encourages all certificated airports to voluntarily develop an SMS. The FAA will continue to make AIP funds available to commercial airport sponsors for eligible airport SMS-related costs.

The December 2012 report indicates that the SNPRM is expected to be published by December 9, 2013, with a 60-day comment period. The preamble to the SNPRM will address comments previously submitted to the docket for the NPRM. Agency action is statutorily required within 16 months of the close of the comment period.