

“Fatigue Risk Management Systems in the Canadian Aviation Maintenance Industry”

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June 18, 2008: Shiftwork Operations Parallel Session

Abstract

For the past eight years, Transport Canada has worked to achieve a better understanding of fatigue issues in the Canadian aviation maintenance industry. Initial studies sought to understand whether there was an issue with fatigue in aviation maintenance and if so, whether duty times of aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs) should be regulated with appropriate limitations. Through research efforts and consultations with the industry, it appeared that traditional approaches to AME fatigue, based on prescriptive limits to duty times, were unlikely to be an effective solution. An alternative, non-prescriptive approach was proposed. In this approach, approved maintenance organizations (AMOs) would be required to implement a Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS) within their organizations.

The result of the consultation is a set of regulations that integrate a FRMS as a required component of a Safety Management System. In order to assist the industry in implementing FRMS, Transport Canada has undertaken to produce a set of audit methodologies, policy templates, and training materials. In advance of publication of the regulation (expected in 2009), AMOs can voluntarily use these tools to meet their needs and ensure proper management of fatigue-related risks. This presentation provides an overview of the background to the research, the various phases

of the research and Transport Canada’s FRMS toolbox approach and desired outcomes.

Main Points

- Provide background into why Transport Canada chose FRMS as a regulatory solution.
- Give an overview of the research efforts Transport Canada has undertaken in respect to fatigue in the Canadian aviation maintenance environment.
- Offer details of Transport Canada’s FRMS toolbox and approach to implementation.

A copy of Ms. Jacqueline Booth-Bourdeau’s biographical information and presentation slides are provided in Appendix B.