

2015 Global Manufacturing Meeting

Meeting Overview

We are all working within a global industry that faces changes at an ever increasing pace. Our manufacturing oversight systems and resources continue to be tested by complex supply chains, risk-sharing business models that stretch across the globe, and emerging technologies that require regulators to respond with increased flexibility.

This three-day meeting provides an opportunity for aviation authorities to share methods for strengthening partnerships through enhanced resource sharing, communications, and procedural improvements. It is our hope that through this work we can refocus our approach to manufacturing oversight that meets both the demands of the industry and our shared commitment to maximizing safety performance. Our goal is for these discussions to initiate the framework to fully implement reciprocal assistance with the ultimate goal of accepting each other's oversight activities where possible.

Below is a summary of each workshop that can assist in your preparation for the discussions.

Workshop 1 – The Mechanics of Reciprocal Technical Assistance

Workshop Overview – To fully realize the reciprocal technical assistance benefits in our bilateral agreements, it is important to better understand how individual authority oversight systems intersect and diverge. This better understanding can facilitate additional opportunities for reciprocal technical assistance.

Workshop Objectives – To identify areas where our systems intersect and can be immediately leveraged on each other's behalf for technical assistance. Additionally, authorities will have the opportunity to discuss specific leveraging requests for the upcoming year.

Workshop Deliverables – Shared logistical information that can be used by each authority to facilitate leveraging technical assistance, specifically on –

- How individual authorities develop oversight schedules
- Who to contact at an authority for conducting reciprocal technical assistance
- Requirements for a common oversight form
- Ideas for how authorities could follow-up on a corrective action requested by another authority

Workshop 2 – Barriers to Reciprocal Acceptance

Workshop Overview – In the current landscape, suppliers often hold production approval under another authority’s oversight system. Through our bilateral agreements, we have determined that these systems provide an equivalent level of safety. As authorities deal with increasing strain on resources, we should look for long-term solutions that grow beyond leveraging to meet individual authority needs. Together we should strive towards a level of harmonization and safety information sharing that will allow authorities the ability to accept each other’s oversight activities.

If authorities agreed on how inspections are conducted and recorded it would set the stage for using each other’s data to fulfill oversight responsibilities. For example, by sharing end-of year oversight activities and findings, it may be possible for Authority A to accept Authority B’s scheduled facility inspection to meet Authority A’s oversight responsibilities for a supplier/manufacturer.

Workshop Objectives – To determine if there is interest among authorities in accepting each other’s current oversight activities to meet other authorities’ responsibilities. If so, discuss and document possible barriers to and opportunities for implementing acceptance.

Workshop Deliverables –

- A list of issues and challenges for moving towards acceptance
- Data sharing opportunities and ideas
- Possibly a charter for a bilateral team that will build the framework for acceptance