

Federal Aviation Administration

Advisory Circular

Subject: Engineered Materials Arresting Systems (EMAS) for Aircraft Overruns

Date: 9/27/2012 **Initiated by:** AAS-100 AC No: 150/5220-22B Change:

1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular (AC) contains standards for the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of Engineered Materials Arresting Systems (EMAS) in runway safety areas (RSA). Engineered Materials means high energy absorbing materials of selected strength, which will reliably and predictably deform under the weight of an aircraft.

2. CANCELLATION. This AC cancels AC 150/5220-22A, Engineered Materials Arresting Systems (EMAS) for Aircraft Overruns, dated September 30, 2005.

3. BACKGROUND. Aircraft can and do occasionally overrun the ends of runways, sometimes with devastating results. An overrun occurs when an aircraft passes beyond the end of a runway during an aborted takeoff or while landing. Data on aircraft overruns over a 12-year period (1975 to 1987) indicate that approximately 90% of all overruns occur at exit speeds of 70 knots or less and most come to rest between the extended runway edges within 1000 feet of the runway end (References 3 and 4, Appendix 4).

To minimize the hazards of overruns, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) incorporated the concept of a safety area beyond the runway end into airport design standards. To meet the standards, the safety area must be capable, under dry conditions, of supporting the occasional passage of aircraft that overrun the runway without causing structural damage to the aircraft or injury to its occupants. The safety area also provides greater accessibility for emergency equipment after an overrun incident. There are many runways, particularly those constructed prior to the adoption of the safety area standards, where natural obstacles, local development, and/or environmental constraints, make the construction of a standard safety area impracticable. There have been accidents at some of these airports where the ability to stop an overrunning aircraft within the runway safety area would have prevented major damage to aircraft and/or injuries to passengers.

Recognizing the difficulties associated with achieving a standard safety area at all airports, the FAA undertook research programs on the use of various materials for aircraft arresting systems. These research programs, as well as, evaluation of actual aircraft overruns into an EMAS have demonstrated its effectiveness in arresting aircraft overruns.

4. APPLICATION. RSA standards cannot be modified or waived. The standards remain in effect regardless of the presence of natural or man-made objects or surface conditions that might create a hazard to aircraft that overrun the end of a runway. A continuous evaluation of all practicable alternatives for improving each sub-standard RSA is required. FAA Order 5200.8, Runway Safety Area Program, explains the evaluation process.

FAA Order 5200.9, Financial Feasibility and Equivalency of Runway Safety Area Improvements and Engineered Material Arresting Systems, is used in connection with FAA Order 5200.8 to determine the best practicable and financially feasible alternative for an RSA improvement.

The FAA does not require an airport operator to reduce the length of a runway or declare its length to be less than the actual pavement length to meet runway safety area standards if there is an adverse operational impact to the airport. An example of an adverse operational impact would be an airport's inability to accommodate its current or planned aircraft fleet. Under these circumstances, installing an EMAS is another way of enhancing safety.

A standard EMAS provides a level of safety that is equivalent to a full RSA built to the dimensional standards in Chapter 3, Runway Design, of the latest version of AC 150/5300-13, Airport Design. It also provides an acceptable level of safety for undershoots (by providing the minimum 600 feet of runway safety area), in addition to overruns.

The FAA recommends the guidelines and standards in this AC for the design of EMAS. In general, this AC is **not mandatory** and does not constitute a regulation. It is issued for guidance purposes and to outline a method of compliance. However, use of these guidelines is **mandatory** for an airport operator installing an EMAS funded under Federal grant assistance programs or on an airport certificated under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 139, Airport Certification. Mandatory terms such as "must" used herein apply only to those who seek to demonstrate compliance by use of the specific method described by this AC.

If an airport operator elects to follow an alternate method, the alternate method must have been determined by the FAA to be an acceptable means of complying with this AC, the runway safety area standards in the latest version of AC 150/5300-13, and 14 CFR Part 139.

5. PRINCIPAL CHANGES.

a. Corrected references to appendices in "BACKGROUND" paragraph.

b. Changed reference of "airport sponsor" to say "airport operator".

c. Clarified that the latest versions of all ACs listed in this AC are to be referenced.

d. Provided further clarification that the planning charts are based on previously simulated information and that final design must be done by the EMAS manufacturer.

e. Deleted the term "poor braking" throughout. Replace with "0.25 braking friction coefficient."

f. Clarified the term "passive system."

g. Clarified service life requirement for newly constructed EMAS beds.

h. Changed the word "should" to "must" in many sections.

i. Clarified the requirements on the minimum width of an EMAS based on the standard runway width for the applicable airplane design group.

j. Clarified the requirements for snow removal compatibility, a snow removal plan and to protect functionality of navigational aids from snow and ice.

k. Clarified the terms of the 45 day repair requirement.

l. Added guidance for requirements prior to and during construction or repair.

m. Clarified the requirements to material characteristics as it pertains to wildlife and added anti-icing fluids, and herbicides.

n. Modified the required design submittal date.

o. Clarified inspection and maintenance requirements.

6. RELATED READING MATERIAL. Appendix 4, Related Reading Material, contains a list of documents with supplemental material relating to EMAS. These documents contain information on materials evaluated, as well as design, construction, and testing procedures utilized. Testing and data generated under these FAA studies may be used as input to an EMAS design without additional justification.

7. PLANNING CHARTS. The figures included in Appendix 2, Planning Charts, are for general planning purposes only. They are intended as a preliminary screening tool based on previously simulated information on EMAS beds and are not sufficient for final design. Final design must be done by the EMAS manufacturer and must be customized for each installation. The figures illustrate estimated EMAS stopping distance capabilities for various aircraft types. The design used in each chart is optimized specifically for the aircraft noted on the chart. Charts are based on standard design conditions, i.e. 75-foot set-back, no reverse thrust, and an 0.25 braking friction coefficient.

a. Example 1. Assume a runway with a DC-9 (or similar) as the design aircraft. Figure A2-1 shows that an EMAS 400 feet in length (including a 75-foot set-back) is capable of stopping a DC-9 within the confines of the system at runway exit speeds of up to 75 knots.

b. Example 2. Assume the same runway, but assume the design aircraft is a DC-10 (or similar). Figure A2-2 shows an EMAS of the same length, but designed for larger aircraft, can stop the DC-10 within the confines of the system at runway exit speeds of up to 62 knots.

8. PRELIMINARY PLANNING. Follow the guidance in FAA Orders 5200.8 and 5200.9 to determine practicable, financially feasible alternatives for RSA improvements. Additional cost and performance information for EMAS options to consider in the analysis can be obtained from the EMAS manufacturer.

9. SYSTEM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS. For purposes of design, the EMAS can be considered to be fixed by its function and frangible since it is designed to fail at a specified impact load. EMAS is exempt from the requirements of 14 CFR Part 77, Safe, Efficient Use, and Preservation of the Navigable Airspace. When EMAS is the selected option to upgrade a runway safety area, it is considered to meet the safety area requirements of 14 CFR Part 139. The following system design requirements must prevail for all EMAS installations:

a. Concept. An EMAS is designed to stop an overrunning aircraft by exerting predictable deceleration forces on its landing gear as the EMAS material deforms. It must be designed to minimize the potential for structural damage to aircraft, since such damage could result in injuries to passengers and/or affect the predictability of deceleration forces. An EMAS must be designed for a 20-year service life.

b. Location. An EMAS is located beyond the end of the runway and centered on the extended runway centerline. It will usually begin at some setback distance from the end of the runway to avoid damage due to jet blast and undershoots (Figure A1-2, Appendix 1). This distance will vary depending on the available area and the EMAS materials. Where the area available is longer than required for installation of a standard EMAS designed to stop the design aircraft at an exit speed of 70 knots, the EMAS should be placed as far from the runway end Such placement decreases the as practicable. possibility of damage to the system from short overruns or undershoots and results in a more economical system by considering the deceleration capabilities of the existing runway safety area.

An EMAS is not intended to meet the definition of a stopway as provided in the latest version of AC 150/5300-13. The runway safety area and runway object free area lengths begin at a runway end when a stopway is not provided. When a stopway is provided, these lengths begin at the stopway end.

The airport operator, EMAS manufacturer, and the appropriate FAA Regional Airports Division/Airports District Office (ADO) must consult regarding the EMAS location to determine the appropriate position beyond the end of the runway for the EMAS installation for a specific runway.

c. Design. An EMAS design must be supported by a validated design method that can predict the performance of the system. The design (or critical) aircraft is defined as that aircraft using the associated runway that imposes the greatest demand upon the EMAS. This is usually, but not always, the heaviest/largest aircraft that regularly uses the runway. EMAS performance is dependent not only on aircraft weight, but landing gear configuration and tire pressure. In general, use the maximum take-off weight (MTOW) for the design aircraft. However, there may be instances where less than the MTOW will require a longer EMAS. All configurations should be considered in optimizing the EMAS design. To the extent practicable, however, the EMAS design should consider both the aircraft that imposes the greatest demand upon the EMAS and the range of aircraft expected to operate on the runway. In some instances, a composite design aircraft may be preferable to optimizing the EMAS for a single design aircraft. Other factors unique to a particular airport, such as available RSA and air cargo operations, should also be considered in the final design. The airport operator, EMAS manufacturer, and the appropriate FAA Regional Airports Division/ADO must consult regarding the selection of the design aircraft that will optimize the EMAS for a specific airport.

The design method must be derived from field or laboratory tests. Testing may be based either on passage of an actual aircraft or an equivalent single wheel load through a test bed. The design must consider multiple aircraft parameters, including but not limited to allowable aircraft gear loads, gear configuration, tire contact pressure, aircraft center of gravity, and aircraft gear loads, g-forces on aircraft occupants, deceleration rates, and stopping distances within the arresting system. Any rebound of the crushed material that may lessen its effectiveness must also be considered.

d. Operation. The EMAS must be a passive system which requires no external means to initiate/trigger the operation of the EMAS to arrest an aircraft.

e. Width. The minimum width of the EMAS must be the width of the runway (plus any sloped area as necessary—see 9.h below). Also, the minimum width of the EMAS (not including the

9/27/2012

sloped area) should be based on the standard runway width for the applicable airplane design group per AC 150/5300-13.

f. Base. The EMAS must be constructed on a paved base (Figure A1-1) extending from the runway threshold which is capable of supporting the occasional passage of the critical design aircraft using the runway and fully loaded Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicles without deformation of the base surface or structural damage to the aircraft or vehicles. It must be designed to perform satisfactorily under all local weather, temperature, and soil conditions. It must provide sufficient support to facilitate removal of the aircraft from the Full strength runway pavement is not EMAS. required. Pavement suitable for shoulders is suitable as an EMAS base. The latest version of AC 150/5320-6. Airport Pavement Design and Evaluation, provides recommendations on pavement for shoulders. State highway specifications may also be used.

g. Entrance Speed. To the maximum extent possible, the EMAS must be designed to decelerate the design aircraft expected to use the runway at exit speeds of 70 knots without imposing loads that exceed the aircraft's design limits, causing major structural damage to the aircraft or imposing excessive forces on its occupants. The airport operator must coordinate through the responsible FAA Regional Airports Division/ADO to contact the FAA's Office of Airport Safety and Standards, Airport Engineering Division (AAS-100) at 202-267-7669 for guidance when EMAS design is proposed for aircraft that are not approach category C or D.

When there is insufficient RSA available for a standard EMAS, the EMAS must be designed to achieve the maximum deceleration of the design aircraft within the available runway safety area. However, a 40-knot minimum exit speed must be used for the design of a non-standard EMAS. For design purposes, assume the aircraft has all of its landing gear in full contact with the runway and is traveling within the confines of the runway and parallel to the runway centerline upon overrunning the runway end.

The airport operator, EMAS manufacturer, and the appropriate FAA Regional Airports Division/ADO must consult regarding the selection of the appropriate design entrance speed for the EMAS installation.

Note that current EMAS models are not as accurate for aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of less than 25,000 pounds.

h. Aircraft Evacuation. The EMAS must be designed to enable safe ingress and egress as well as movement of ARFF equipment (not necessarily without damage to the EMAS) operating during an emergency. If the EMAS is to be built above existing grade, sloped areas sufficient to allow the entrance of ARFF vehicles from the front and sides must be provided. Provision for access from the back of the EMAS may be provided if desirable. Maximum slopes must be based on the EMAS material and performance characteristics of the airport's ARFF equipment.

i. Maintenance Access. The EMAS must be capable of supporting regular pedestrian traffic for the purposes of maintenance of the arresting material and co-located navigation aids without damage to the surface of the EMAS bed. An EMAS is not intended to support vehicular traffic for maintenance purposes. Reference Appendix 3, Inspection and Maintenance Program.

j. Undershoots. The runway safety area should provide adequate protection for aircraft that touch down prior to the runway threshold (undershoot). Adequate protection is provided by either: (1) providing at least 600 feet (or the length of the standard runway safety area, whichever is less) between the runway threshold and the far end of the EMAS bed if the approach end of the runway has instrument or visual vertical guidance or (2) providing the full length standard runway safety area when no vertical guidance is provided. The EMAS must not cause control problems for aircraft undershoots which touch down in the EMAS bed. Fulfillment of this requirement may be based exclusively on flight simulator tests. The tests will establish the minimum material strength and density that does not cause aircraft control problems during an undershoot. Materials whose density and strength exceeds these minimums will be deemed acceptable.

k. Navigational Aids. The EMAS must be constructed to accommodate approach lighting structures and other approved facilities within its boundaries. It, along with any snow or ice that may accumulate prior to its removal in accordance with the inspection and maintenance program, must not cause visual or electronic interference with any air navigational aids. All navigational aids within the EMAS must be frangible as required by the latest version of AC 150/5220-23, Frangible Connections.

To meet the intent of this regulation, approach light standards must be designed to fail at two points. The first point of frangibility must be three inches or less above the top of the EMAS bed. The second point of frangibility must be three inches or less above the expected residual depth of the EMAS bed after passage of the design aircraft. As a part of the EMAS design, the EMAS manufacturer must provide the expected residual depth to allow the determination of this second frangibility point.

I. Drainage. The EMAS must be designed to prevent water from accumulating on the surface of the EMAS bed, the runway or the runway safety area. The removal and disposal of water, which may hinder any activity necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the airport, must be in accordance with the latest version of AC 150/5320-5, Surface Drainage Design.

The EMAS design must consider ice accumulation, and in areas that are subject to snow or ice removal requirements, must be designed to be mechanically or manually cleared of ice and snow. Requirements/limitations must be addressed in the approved inspection and maintenance program discussed in paragraph 15 and Appendix 3.

m. Jet Blast. The EMAS must be designed and constructed with adequate set back so that it will not be damaged by expected jet blast.

n. Repair. The EMAS must be designed for repair to a usable condition (in which the bed is completely repaired) within 45 days of an overrun by the design aircraft at the design entrance speed.

An EMAS bed that is damaged due to an incident (overrun/undershoot, etc.) must be repaired within this 45 day repair period not including any days that present any conditions that delay repair of the bed (i.e. severe weather, operational constraints, etc.). The undamaged areas of the EMAS bed must be protected from further damage until the bed is repaired.

Refer to the latest version of AC 150/5370-2, Operational Safety on Airports During Construction, for acceptable safety and phasing options when repairing an EMAS during operations.

10. MATERIAL QUALIFICATION. The material comprising the EMAS must have the following requirements and characteristics:

a. Material Strength and Deformation Requirements. Materials must meet a force vs.

deformation profile within limits having been shown to assure uniform characteristics, and therefore, predictable response to an aircraft entering the arresting system.

b. Material Characteristics. The materials comprising the EMAS must:

(1) Be water-resistant to the extent that the presence of water does not affect system performance.

(2) Not attract, or be physically vulnerable to vermin, birds, wildlife or other creatures to the greatest extent possible.

(3) Be non-sparking.

(4) Be non-flammable.

(5) Not promote combustion.

(6) Not emit toxic or malodorous fumes in a fire environment after installation.

(7) Not support unintended plant growth with proper application of herbicides.

(8) Exhibit constant strength and density characteristics during all climatic conditions within a temperature range appropriate for the locale.

(9) Be resistant to deterioration due to:

(a) Salt.

(**b**) Approved aircraft and runway deicing and anti-icing fluids and solids.

(c) Aircraft fuels, hydraulic fluids, and lubricating oils.

- (d) UV resistant.
- (e) Water.
- (f) Freeze/thaw.
- (g) Blowing sand and snow.
- (**h**) Paint.
- (i) Herbicides.

11. Material Conformance Requirements. An EMAS manufacturer must establish a material sampling and testing program including testing frequency to verify that all materials are in

conformance with the initial approved material force versus deformation profile established under paragraph 10.a. Materials failing to meet these requirements must not be used.

The initial sampling and testing program must be submitted to and approved by the FAA, Office of Airport Safety and Standards for each design method found by the FAA to be an acceptable means of complying with this AC. Once approved, the program may be used for subsequent projects.

12. DESIGN PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL. The EMAS design must be prepared by the design engineer and the EMAS manufacturer for the airport operator. The airport operator must submit the EMAS design through the responsible FAA Regional Airports Division/ADO, to the FAA, Office of Airport Safety and Standards, for review and approval. The EMAS design must be certified as meeting all the requirements of this AC and the submittal must include all design assumptions and data utilized in its development as well as proposed construction procedures and techniques. The EMAS design must be submitted at least 45 days prior to the bid advertisement date for the project, however interim progress report submissions made in advance are encouraged.

13. QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) PROGRAM.

A construction quality assurance program must be implemented for each EMAS project to ensure that installation/construction is in accordance with the approved EMAS design. The construction contractor and EMAS manufacturer prepare the construction QA program for the airport operator. The airport operator must submit the construction QA program to the responsible FAA Airports Region/District Office for approval 14 days prior to the project notice to proceed.

14. MARKING. An EMAS must be marked with yellow chevrons as an area unusable for landing, takeoff, and taxiing in accordance with AC 150/5340-1, Standards for Airport Markings (latest version). Paint application must be in accordance with AC 150/5370-10, Standards for Specifying Construction of Airports, P-620, Runway and Taxiway Painting, and the EMAS manufacturers' recommendations for the EMAS system.

15. INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE. The EMAS manufacturer must prepare an inspection and maintenance program for the airport operator for each EMAS installation, prior to completion of the final design. The airport operator must submit the program to the responsible FAA Regional Airports

Division/ADO for approval prior to final project acceptance. The airport operator must implement the approved inspection and maintenance program. The program must include any necessary procedures for inspection, preventive maintenance and unscheduled repairs, particularly to weatherproofing layers. It should also include testing and evaluation procedures and criteria for determining when an installed EMAS has reached the end of its service life. Procedures sufficiently allow must he detailed to maintenance/repair of the EMAS bed with the airport operator's staff. The airport operator may also elect to have the EMAS manufacturer maintain the EMAS bed. The program must include appropriate records to verify that all required inspections and maintenance have been performed by the airport operator and/or EMAS manufacturer. These records must be made available to the FAA upon request. Appendix 3, Inspection and Maintenance Program, outlines the basic requirements of an EMAS inspection and maintenance program.

The airport operator or certificate holder must be notified that the EMAS is designed to fail under load and that precautions should be taken when activities require personnel to be on, or vehicles and personnel to be near, the EMAS.

16. AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF).

a. ARFF Vehicle Access During an Emergency. As required by paragraph 9.h, an EMAS is designed to allow movement of typical ARFF equipment operating during an emergency. However, as the sides of the system are typically steeply sloped or stepped, and the system will be severely rutted after an aircraft arrestment, ARFF vehicles so equipped should be shifted into all-wheel-drive prior to entering and maneuvering upon an EMAS.

b. Firefighting Tactics. Any fire present after the arrestment of an aircraft will be three-dimensional due to the rutting and breakup of the EMAS material. A dual-agent attack and/or other tactics appropriate to this type of fire should be employed.

17. NOTIFICATION. Upon installation of an EMAS, its length, width, and location must be included as a remark in the Airport/Facility Directory (AFD) and also depicted in the airport diagram. To assure timely publication, the airport operator must forward the required information to the FAA Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) as soon as possible, but not later than the "cut-off" dates listed in the AFD, for publication on the desired

effective date. (The AIM address and cut-off dates are listed on the inside front cover of the AFD.) The airport operator must also notify the appropriate FAA Regional Airports Division/ADO.

The following is an example of a typical entry:

"Engineered Materials Arresting System, 400'L x 150'W, located at departure end of

Runway 16."

MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL Director of Airport Safety and Standards When an EMAS is damaged due to an overrun or determined to be less than fully serviceable, a NOTAM must be issued to alert airport users of the reduced performance of the EMAS.



Appendix 1. Standard EMAS and Typical Sections.

Figure A1-1. Standard EMAS Installation Provides a Level Of Safety That is Equivalent to a Standard Runway Safety Area (RSA).





Appendix 2. Planning Charts.

Figure A2-1.



Figure A2-2.



13

Figure A2-3.



Figure A2-4.

14

9/27/2012



Figure A2-5.



Figure A2-6.



Appendix 3. Inspection and Maintenance Program.

An inspection and maintenance program, prepared by the EMAS manufacturer, will be submitted to and approved by the FAA Regional/Airports District Office. The Airport operator must implement the approved inspection and maintenance program. On airports certificated under 14 CFR part 139, the inspection and maintenance program must be incorporated into the airport operator's FAA-approved Airport Certification Manual. Determining the party responsible for carrying out a basic EMAS inspection and maintenance program can be negotiated between the operator and the EMAS manufacturer. At a minimum, the maintenance plan must address the following areas:

- 1. General information on the EMAS bed including:
 - A description of the EMAS bed
 - Material description
 - Contact information for the EMAS manufacturer
- 2. Inspection requirements including:
 - Type and frequency of required inspections
 - Training of personnel
 - Checklist(s) and instructions on how to conduct each inspection
 - List of typical problems and possible solutions
 - Testing and evaluation procedures, and criteria for determining when an installed EMAS has reached the end of its useful service life
 - Required documentation for inspections
 - Inspection forms
- 3. Maintenance and repair procedures including:
 - List of approved materials and tools
 - Description of repair procedures for typical damage to an EMAS bed such as repairing depressions/holes, abrasion damage, replacing a damaged block, repairing coatings, caulking/joint repair, etc

4. Any unique requirements due to location (both geographically and within the airport), such as snow removal requirements and methods, in order to protect the operation of the airfield and its facilities. Identify compatible deicing agents. Specify snow removal equipment that is compatible with the EMAS bed and recommended clearing procedures and/or limitations.

5. Warranty information.

Appendix 4. Related Reading Material.

This appendix contains a listing of documents with supplemental material relating to the subject of EMAS. These documents contain certain information on materials evaluated as well as design, construction, and testing procedures utilized to date. Most publications may be obtained from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS): http://www.ntis.gov.

1. DOT/FAA/PM-87/27, Soft Ground Arresting Systems, Final Report, Sept. 1986–Aug. 1987, published Aug. 1987 by R.F. Cook, Universal Energy Systems, Inc., Dayton, OH.

2. DOT/FAA/CT-93/4, Soft Ground Arresting Systems for Commercial Aircraft, Interim Report, Feb. 1993 by Robert Cook.

3. DOT/FAA/CT-93/80, Soft Ground Arresting Systems for Airports, Final Report, Dec. 1993 by Jim White, Satish K. Agrawal, and Robert Cook.

4. DOT/FAA/AOV 90-1, Location of Commercial Aircraft Accidents/Incidents Relative to Runways, July 1990, by R.E. David.

5. UDR-TR-88-07, Evaluation of a Foam Arrestor Bed for Aircraft Safety Overrun Areas, 1988 by Cook, R.F., University of Dayton Research Institute, Dayton, OH.

ACs and Orders are available on the FAA Airports website at http://www.faa.gov/airports:

1. AC 150/5300-13, Airport Design.

2. Order 5200.8, Runway Safety Area Program.

3. Order 5200.9, Financial Feasibility and Equivalency of Runway Safety Area Improvements and Engineered Material Arresting Systems.