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**Federal Aviation
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InFO

Information for Operators

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Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info

An InFO contains valuable information for operators that should help them meet certain administrative, regulatory, or operational requirements with relatively low urgency or impact on safety.

Subject: FAA Safety Management System (SMS) developments – No. 1

Purpose: To make known to certificate holders such as air carriers, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR), part 142 training centers, and 14 CFR part 145 repair stations of the coming implementation of SMS worldwide, and to recommend reference materials they may use to prepare for their own implementation.

Background: The aviation world – operators and regulators alike – is moving toward SMS as a means to manage safety in operations and to guide regulatory oversight. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has endorsed SMS by entering pertinent requirements in Annex 6, Operation of Aircraft, and in Annex 8, Maintenance of Aircraft. ICAO SMS requirements for aircraft and maintenance operations stipulate that nations should put SMS programs into effect beginning January 1, 2009. ICAO recognizes that a shift to SMS practice worldwide will not be instantaneous; thus ICAO recommends “phased implementation” of SMS programs by certificate holders and regulators.

Discussion: The FAA supports ICAO’s SMS initiative and has been in active liaison with ICAO and with individual nations involved in developing SMS programs. FAA action to date is centered on development of policies and practices governing FAA’s own operations and its oversight of certificate holders’ operations.

There are currently two official publications for use by a certificate holder in developing an SMS that is appropriately scaled to the scope of its unique operations:

- FAA Advisory Circular 120-92
http://www.airweb.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAdvisoryCircular.nsf/MainFrame?OpenFrameSet
- ICAO Safety Management Manual, Doc 9859 (11.44 mb)
<http://icao.int/fsix> Click on Safety Management; click on Publications and Resources

Recommended Action: Chief executives, directors of safety, directors of operations, financial officers, and training managers should review these two publications to become familiar with SMS concepts and terminology, and to prepare for their own implementation of SMS.

For More Information: The FAA Flight Standards Service has established an SMS Program Office for the purpose of coordinating FAA and industry actions involving SMS. Contact the SMS program manager, Dr. Don Arendt, AFS-900. don.arendt@faa.gov or, 703-661-0516