

## System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO)

### *What is SASO?*

SASO is a program office established by Flight Standards (AFS). The mission of SASO is to review and, if necessary, redesign the processes used by AFS to oversee the US aviation industry in order to achieve the highest level of safety and efficiency.

### *What does SASO do?*

- Develops, and ultimately will implement, a comprehensive system safety approach to the oversight of all aviation entities
- Prepares employees for forthcoming changes in safety oversight

### *Why was SASO created?*

- To integrate system safety into our oversight processes and develop the tools to support them
- To ensure we continue to maintain our safety record in a world of increased air traffic and static budgets

### *How does SASO do its work?*

SASO works in four areas:

- **Business Process Re-engineering:** Redesign current oversight processes and integrate system safety principles within these processes
- **Systems Alignment:** Ensure tools and technology are designed in support of these oversight processes
- **Enterprise Architecture:** Integrate the tools and processes into the AVS-wide enterprise management
- **Change Management and Implementation:** Ensure that business process changes are rolled out appropriately – so that the people affected have the right knowledge, skills, tools, processes, and systems to adapt

### *SASO Background*

SASO established three pilot projects in 2005 to document current oversight processes, develop the functional requirements of future oversight processes, and identify gaps between them. The pilot projects focused on three CFR parts:

- Part 121 (ATOS 1.2)
- Part 135
- Part 145

The pilot projects were successfully completed in 2008.

### *What is SASO doing now?*

- AFS has recently conducted a gap analysis, comparing existing oversight processes in Parts 121, 135, and 145 with functional requirements for an AFS Safety Assurance System (SAS), and is currently working to design the AFS SAS
- In 2009, the SASO PO selected a group of FAA employee volunteers to serve on the new Safety Promotion Outreach Team (SPOT). This new group will help prepare the workforce for change by giving and gathering data from the field on SMS and SAS, and SASO's role in implementing them. SPOT members will brief all FSDOs, CMOs, ROs, IFOs, and headquarters personnel in 2009

**If you have questions, please contact the program office at [9-AWA-AFS-30-SASO@FAA.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AFS-30-SASO@FAA.gov)**  
**For more information, visit SASO online: [http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs\\_initiatives/oversight/saso/](http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/saso/)**