Safety

Oversee and operate the safest aerospace system in the world, all with a culture of continuous improvement

Systemic Safety Approach

Mitigate risks and encourage infrastructure and behavior change by using a data-driven systemic safety approach to identify risks, enhance standards and programs, and evaluate effectiveness.

Initiative: Commercial Space Transportation Systemic Safety Approach

Ensure that safety oversight keeps pace with changes in the commercial space transportation environment.

Activity: Launch and Reentry Safety

AST will ensure there are no fatalities, serious injuries, or significant property damage to the uninvolved public during licensed or permitted space launch and reentry activities.

Target: Licensed and Permitted Launch and Reentry Safety

AST will ensure there are no fatalities, serious injuries, or significant property damage to the uninvolved public during licensed or permitted space launch and reentry activities.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation: Airspace Operations Integration

Conduct various projects to support the safe integration of commercial space transportation operations into the national airspace.

Target: Air Traffic Control System Support

Provide safety and subject matter expertise support to the Air Traffic Control System Command Center and affected Air Traffic Control facilities during commercial space launch and reentry operations for which tactical support is required.

Initiative: Commercial Space Transportation Licensing

Maintain public safety through process improvements and the conduct of effective and efficient safety evaluations, safety inspections, and rulemaking. Complete 80% of the initiatives within this target, as well as achieve: a rolling average of 174 days to make license determination based on the 10 most recent license applications, and a rolling average of 118 days to make permit determination based on the 10 most recent permit applications.

Activity: Improve Licensing Processes

Improve licensing process efficiency and effectiveness.

Target: Commercial space transportation licensing lessons learned report

Prepare a report that captures lessons learned from application evaluations to identify potential licensing/permitting process improvements, which may include recommendations for updating the P-002 procedures or proposing regulatory changes if evaluations indicate a requirement is inadequate or not clearly defined.

Initiative: Conduct Safety Inspections

Verify operator compliance with public safety requirements during the conduct of launch/reentry, launch/reentry site operator, and safety approval operations to the extent necessary using a data-driven and behavioral driven monitoring approach. Execute the AST standardization and evaluation and inspection training programs to standardize a common approach to verification techniques. Execute mishap response coordination and enforcement programs to return operators to safe operation and compliance.

Activity: Inspect Launch and Reentry Operations and Sites

Conduct launch/reentry, launch/reentry site operator, and safety approval safety inspections as required.

Target: Monitor FAA Authorized Operators/Operations

Conduct monitoring activity against FAA authorized operators/operations to the extent necessary to ensure public safety and verify operator compliance in accordance with an established concept of operations (CONOPS) which adequately manages inspection resources while focusing on critical safety processes and activities in order to mitigate risk to the public. Record, document, and evaluate compliance monitoring results to effectively monitor future activities.

Target: Publish Annual Lessons Learned

: Increase safety and collaborate lessons learned with stakeholders through the development and publishing of an annual lessons learned report. Identify specific reoccurring waivers which could indicate inadequate or improperly defined public safety requirements. Identify lessons learned and other safety issues observed during inspection and mishap response or those which do not support operational environments and indicate potentially inadequate safety and mishap requirements necessitating modification. Develop and provide regulatory recommendations and/or draft language which could correct or better define public safety requirements. Coordinate results with the AST management team. Incorporate necessary changes into inspection procedures, training, and safety inspection plans.

Target: Streamline and Modify Certification Process

Review the current safety inspector qualification matrix (QM) qualification and certification process. Develop a strategic plan to improve the delivery of training for qualification and certification of new safety inspectors based on the basic knowledge, skills, and experience required to independently and adequately monitor and support Commercial Space Transportation safety inspection division activities. Identify and document proficiency training requirements and guidelines for qualified/certified personnel in order to maintain certification. Review and identify improvements to the current qualification and certification record keeping process. Identify information technology requirements and potential applicable tools.

Activity: Maintain a Mishap Response Program

Develop, implement, and modify critical mishap response procedures, tools and exercises to familiarize and train division staff response to commercial space transportation mishap events. Share lessons learned with AST and other stakeholders. Support and oversee mishap activities associated with AST regulated operations.

Target: Commercial Space Transportation Mishap Response Exercise

Conduct a mishap notification and response team mishap exercise and include key stakeholders as required. Exercise AST bridge line activation and response actions which simulate an actual mishap event. Develop and implement a catastrophic mishap scenario for use during the exercise. Share results, lessons learned and other outcomes with the AST management team. Identify areas of weakness and strengths and provide recommended procedural or policy changes to improve AST mishap response.

Activity: Maintain a Compliance and Enforcement Program

Identify operator compliance issues, process noncompliance in accordance with Agency policy and directives, and prepare/train/familiarize personnel to understand the FAA compliance program and process enforcement actions. Develop, implement, and modify compliance and enforcement program procedures, tools, and exercises.

Target: Maintain Compliance and Enforcement Program Policies and Procedures

Familiarize AST staff with the Compliance & Enforcement program. Provide training Module 1, AST oversight of Compliance and Enforcement Program, for all AST personnel. Provide in depth training Module 2, Inspector training on Compliance and Enforcement, to all safety inspectors using a tabletop exercise (TTE).

Target: Conduct a Compliance and Enforcement Tabletop Exercise

Develop and implement one (1) Compliance & Enforcement tabletop exercise (TTE) to instruct safety inspectors on the procedure to complete an enforcement process from identification of a potential noncompliance to completion of an enforcement process.

Initiative: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues

Improve the ability to identify and assess safety risks through advanced analytics.

Activity: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues

Screen potential/emerging safety issues through the FAA Safety Issue Identification and Management Process.

Target: Potential/Emerging Safety Issues (AST)

Submit an annual FAA safety issue screening report to the FAA SMS Executive Council by September 30, 2021.

Operational Excellence Infrastructure

Operate the world's most efficient aerospace system through daily execution, continuous improvement and infrastructure investment (maps to infrastructure, innovation and accountability)

Project Delivery Planning Environment Funding and Finance

Facilitate expanded infrastructure development, modernization, and construction in both rural and urban communities by fostering more efficient and collaborative planning and construction techniques, accelerating project approval, leveraging all sources of funding, and promoting innovative financing while maintaining environmental stewardship.

Initiative: Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Stewardship

Perform a comprehensive environmental review for each licensed or permitted activity for which an application is accepted and document the results appropriately, for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Agency Directives.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Reviews

Conduct environmental reviews for proposed launch, reentry and launch site operations in support of AST license, permit, and renewal evaluation timelines.

Target: Improve Commercial Space Transportation Environmental Efficiency

Update environmental review process guidance for applicants based on lessons learned, coordinate with AEE, and incorporate updates into AST's pre-application consultation process

Economic Competitiveness and Workforce

Enhance reliable and efficient movement of people and goods by promoting effective management and ensuring leadership in securing data and in sharing information across the transportation system.

Initiative: Harmonize Commercial Space Transportation Data and Standards Requirements

Promote commercial space transportation policies and investments that bring lasting economic benefits to the Nation by harmonizing and leading regulatory practices and by meeting the Nation's space transportation workforce needs.

Activity: Harmonize Commercial Space Transportation Requirements

Partner with United States Government and Industry partners to harmonize environmental requirements and data exchange standards to facilitate Aircraft Hazard Area generation and situation awareness.

Target: Develop standards for NAS safety data exchange

Partner with Industry and the ATO to develop a data exchange standard for AHA generation and situational awareness to promote safe commercial launches and reentries in the NAS

People Accountability

Strengthen our current and future aviation workforce by holding ourselves accountable, developing our people and planning for the aviation workforce of the future

Regulatory Reform

Reduce current regulatory burdens and bureaucracy to ensure a safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system for people and commerce.

Initiative: Develop and Issue Rules and Supporting Regulatory Documents

Develop and issue products to assist potential licensees and permittees in meeting regulatory requirements.

Activity: Manage the Commercial Space Rulemaking Program, Develop Rules, and Supporting Guidance Documents

Publish the final Part 450 Streamlining Commercial Space Launch and Reentry

Target: Develop and issue products intended to assist potential licensees in meeting regulatory requirements pertaining to public safety.

Develop draft advisory documents on topic required for the final rule where no means of compliance exist in the current regulations.

Target: Develop guidance to assist potential licensees in meeting public safety regulatory requirements.

Develop draft guidance on licensing of payloads that carry nuclear material.

Target: Develop and issue products to assist in fully implementing Part 450 Streamlined Launch and Reenetry Rule (SLR2)

Develop guidance to assist potential licensees in meeting public safety regulatory requirements where no means of compliance exist in current regulations. AST will provide industry-wide SLR2 implementation educations by a virtual three day Workshop for current and potential users of Part 450

Target: Develop (10) ACs and Issue products to assist in fully implmenting Part 450 Streamlined Launch and Reentry Rule (SLR2)

Develop guidance to assist potential licensees in meeting public safety regulatory requirements where no means of compliance exist in current regulations. AST will publish ten (10) Aviation Circulars (ACs) which provide implementation guidance and examples for meeting the requirements of the performance-based requirements contained in Part 450.

Activity: Perform Process Improvement Activities to Reduce Regulatory Burden While Maintaining Safety

Evaluate current licensing and evaluation procedures to identify and implement process and efficiency improvements

Target: Analyze Commercial Space Transportation License Application Processes

Analyze Commercial Space Transportation license evaluation processes to identify opportunities for efficiency improvement.

Activity: Complete Launch and Reentry Streamlining Rule Part 450

AST will publish the Commercial Space Streamlined Launch and Reentry Part 450 Rule.

Target: Complete Processing of Part 450 for Final FAA Coordination and Publication

Publish the Commercial Space final Part 450 Rule.

Initiative: EEO/Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (EAC)

Utilize the EEO Action Committee (EAC) to collaborate and support a diverse and inclusive workplace with existing employee workgroups and LOBs/SOs to create an inclusive work environment.

Activity: AST Ensure a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce

• AST in collaboration with the LOB/SO's will complete activities that will foster a diverse and inclusive workplace and improve the Reasonable Accommodation interactive process.
• Assist in the development of a diverse workforce at all levels. Increase the representation of Persons with Targeted Disabilities (PWTD), Hispanics, and Women in the workforce as compared to the civilian labor workforce (CLF). .
• Managers engage in the mediation/facilitation process.

Target: Reasonable Accomodations

Ensure 90% of AST reasonable accommodation requests are processed within 25 business days or less.

Target: Improve Participation/Outreach

Develop strategies to improve the representation of Persons with Targeted Disabilities (PWTD), Hispanics, and Women by providing resources and data analysis to LOB/SOs to increase the workforce as compared to the civilian labor workforce (CLF) and/or MD-715, Part J). These strategies will address hiring, training, career progression opportunities and will be deployed and tracked through the EAC Workgroups.

Target: EEO Training

Monitor the delivery of EEO training to 70% of AST managers and 20% of AST employees

Target: Mediation

Ensure that 75% of all AST managers engage in mediation when requested by employees.

Mission Efficiency and Support

Support mission requirements by efficiency and effectively planning for and managing human capital, finances, procurement, sustainable operations, information technology, emergency preparedness, and other mission support services.

Initiative: Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses

Support small businesses and job creation by providing opportunities for small businesses to attain FAA contracts and purchase orders, with special emphasis on procurement opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (including 8(a) certified firms), service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and women owned small businesses.

Activity: Contracting with Small Businesses

Utilize market analysis and acquisition strategies to provide opportunities for small businesses to compete for and attain FAA contracts and purchase orders, with special emphasis on procurement opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (including 8(a) certified firms), service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and women owned small businesses.

Target: AST- Support ACQ's Small Business efforts

Support ACQ's efforts to ensure 25% of the Agency's total direct procurement dollars are awarded to small businesses.

Initiative: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other agencies to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Activity: Government Partnerships

Continue to develop partnerships with NASA programs and centers, and other agencies to manage policy, coordination, and consistency of requirements for the enhancement of commercial space safety.

Target: NASA Partnerships

Preform annual review of AST developed framework outlining the FAA roles and responsibilities, including a concept of operations for FAA participation during NASA commercial crew program certification flights (shadow mode).

Initiative: Productivity and Financial Metrics

Each FAA organization will develop, track, and report quarterly on a comprehensive measure of its operating efficiency or financial performance. These measures will include: ATO cost per operation, overhead rates, and cost per accounting transaction.

Activity: Corporate Leadership for Efficiency Activities

As the agency lead for all cost control/efficiency efforts, ABA will provide leadership and guidance in the development of efficiency and financial metrics that can be used to track the efficiency and financial performance of each organization within the agency.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Average Days to Make License Determinations- Annual Check/Update

Provide or check updated FY 2022 measure template with changes as needed.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Regulatory Cost per Launch/ Re-entry- Annual Check/Update

Provide or check updated FY 2022 measure template with changes as needed.

Activity: FY 2021 Quarterly Data Consolidated and Reporting

Consolidate LOB/SO efficiency of financial and productivity metrics and report quarterly. Due 60 days after the end of each quarter.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Average Days to Make License Determinations- Quarterly Submission

Report quarterly results and comments to ABA on the average number of days to make license determinations. Due 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Target: AST Efficiency Measure: Regulatory Cost per Launch/ Re-entry- Quarterly Submission

Report quarterly results and comments to ABA for average regulatory cost of a commercial space launch. Due 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Initiative: Enhance Space Transportation Mission Efficiency and Support

Develop and execute activities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Office of Commercial Space Transportation efficiency and support to the safety mission.

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Training & Education

Perform space transportation risk management training and education

Target: PUBLIC SAFETY ANALYSIS TRAINING

Train AST personnel and industry in fundamentals in public risk management and safety analyses.

Activity: Developing effective Interagency/Interorganizational collaborations

Develop inter-agency and organization collaborative efforts to advance commercial Space Transportation safety and effectiveness.

Target: FOSTERING USG CONSENSUS STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Direct the coordination between the FAA, NASA, and USAF to establish and maintain common public safety requirements and compliance evaluation standards for space transportation at Federal and non-Federal launch sites in a timely and efficient manner without altering or otherwise modifying the roles and responsibilities delineated by statute or national policy. Lead the Range Commanders Council (RCC) Risk Committee work to refine/update standards and guidelines for the safety risk management process, criteria, and methods. Specific targets for FY21 are revision of the Common Standards Working Group (CSWG) Charter and the RCC 321 Supplement. Is this still a viable goal?

Initiative: Develop Commercial Space Transportation Strategic Plan

Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation consistent with Department of Transportation and FAA Goals, Objectives, and Guidance

Activity: Commercial Space Transportation Strategic Plan

Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Target: Develop Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation

Develop and coordinate a Strategic Plan for the Office of Commercial Space Transportation which incorporates the Goals, Objectives, and guidance of the Department of Transportation and FAA to include planning criteria for programs, resources, and manpower necessary to execute the AST strategic program.

Target: Implement a comprehensive metrics program incorporating the Department, FAA, and AST Strategic Plans and the FAA and AST Business Plans

Develop and implement a Metrics Development program to capture critical tasks based on the Department, FAA, and AST strategic plans and supporting the FAA and AST Performance planning requirements

Target: Develop a Draft of a Requirements-based programming process for AST

Develop a draft requirements-based programming process to incorporate required capabilities derived from the AST Strategic Plan, a Requirements Documentation process and document format, and integration into a budget requirements submission

Target: Develop and coordinate an AST Roles and Responsibilities Document

Develop and coordinate a Roles and Responsibilities to codify mission assignments resulting from the AST Reorganization