U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

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: Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS)

Purpose: This InFO informs aircraft operators, pilots, and airport personnel of the installation, meaning and use of EMAS.

Discussion: High speed runway excursions have the potential to cause aircraft damage and loss of human life. The most common of these incidents are overruns. Most modern airport designs include a 1,000-foot Runway Safety Area, (RSA) around the runway end for overrun protection. Prior airport design standards allowed obstacles such as bodies of water, highways, railroads, populated areas, or even a severe terrain gradient to be located at the runway end. Because of this, many airports are not able to achieve the full standard RSA. EMAS was developed to mitigate damage and injuries resulting from an aircraft overrun at airports without a suitable RSA. The EMAS is located at the end of the runway, and can vary in size and height based on site specific requirements. The system is made of high energy absorbing materials, and is similar in concept to the runaway truck ramps made of sand or gravel.

Recommended Action: Chief Operating Officers, Directors of Operations, Program Managers, Directors of Safety, Directors of Training, Directors of Maintenance, and Chief Pilots should review aircraft and vehicle operator training and incorporate EMAS information and procedures as appropriate:

- Provide EMAS information and resources on use and location of EMAS installations to pilots and appropriate maintenance personnel, as well as other personnel involved in taxiing aircraft within the Airport Movement Area.
- Incorporate EMAS use into training events and training programs to foster recognition of EMAS and standard procedures to follow, depending on the phase of aircraft operation, e.g., taxi, takeoff, landing.

EMAS Information Resources:

- Airport/Facility Directory, under the specific airport information.
- Current airport diagram and symbology.
- Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge.
- FAA Fact Sheet-EMAS http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=12497
- ESCO-Zodiac Aerospace.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this InFO should be directed to Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-220, (202) 267-8166.