



Federal Aviation Administration

National Part 139 CertAlert

****Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive****

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Date: February 16, 2023

To: All Title 14 CFR part 139 Airport Operators

Subject: Airport Safety Management System

Point of Contact: James Schroeder, AAS-310 (202) 267-4974
Email: james.schroeder@faa.gov

1. **Purpose.** This CertAlert apprises part 139 certificated airports of the pending publication of the Airport Safety Management System (SMS) final rule.
2. **Background.** The final rule requiring SMS for certain part 139 certificated airports has been approved and will be published in the Federal Register soon. SMS for part 139 airports complements the Office of Airports' existing SMS for airport planning and development by delivering a comprehensive risk management program and approach to proactively address safety at an organizational level. The new rule represents many years of study, research, and development of airport safety into the SMS model.
 - a. SMS implementation will be required for certain airports that meet the qualifying criteria under 14 CFR 139.401(a). In short, the qualifying triggering criteria require that the airport:
 - i. Is classified as a Hub airport; or
 - ii. Has a 3-year rolling average of 100,000 operations per year; or
 - iii. Has international operations other than GA-only traffic.
 - b. As of the effective date of the rule, § 139.403 provides the following timelines for qualifying airports:
 - i. 12-24 months to submit an Implementation Plan (IP) for approval (*based on triggering criteria*); and
 - ii. 12 months to submit an Airport Certification Manual (ACM) amendment/SMS manual after IP approval; and
 - iii. 36 months to fully implement the SMS after IP approval.
3. **Resources.**
 - a. For the published final rule and a comprehensive collection of resource information on the rule, visit the **FAA External SMS (SMS for part 139 Airports)** webpage at www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/safety_management_systems/external.

- b. Refer to Advisory Circular 150/5200-37 (current edition), Safety Management Systems for Airports, for guidance on implementing the rule.
- c. The Airport Certification Status List (ACSL) identifies part 139 airports that are required to implement this rule. The ACSL can be found on the **FAA part 139 Airport Certification Status List** webpage at https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/part139_cert/part_139_airport_certification_status_list.
- d. Please direct any questions through your assigned Airport Certification Safety Inspector, or your Regional SMS Coordinator.

The FAA will hold an industry outreach webinar on this rule in the coming weeks. We will share more information on the date and time shortly.



Birkely M. Rhodes, Manager
Airports Safety and Operations Division, AAS-300