U.S. Department
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Federal Aviation
Administration

InFO

Information for Operators

InFO 08053
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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. 2

Purpose: To provide current information on SMS implementation with respect to the January 1, 2009 (or as amended) compliance date.

Background: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has incorporated a requirement into Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft* for member States to establish requirements for operators to implement SMS that are acceptable to the State. The deadline for States to accomplish this is currently January 1, 2009.

Discussion: It is important to recognize that compliance with the ICAO standard depends on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) action to define specific requirements. The FAA has not yet developed regulations or policy for implementation of SMS by U.S. operators. ICAO further recommends a phased implementation once requirements are defined. Currently, the U.S. is in the process of filing a difference with ICAO with reference to the January 2009 deadline and is engaged in dialogue with other countries regarding honoring our difference.

The FAA has published Advisory Circular (AC) 120-92, Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Air Operators, which contains information for operators to develop SMS programs on a voluntary basis. Additional supporting guidance and tools are being developed.

NOTE: At present, there are no authorized provisions for FAA approval or acceptance of SMS programs.

Recommended Action: Industry Chief Executive Officers, management officials, safety officers and FAA managers and inspectors should note the contents of this InFO.

Point of Contact: The SMS Program Office of the FAA Flight Standards Service coordinates FAA and industry actions involving SMS. You may contact the SMS Program Manger, Dr. Don Arendt, for further information: don.arendt@faa.gov and phone number 703-661-0516.