

The FAA's Approach to System Safety and Certification

The importance of having a complete understanding of the FAA's system safety-based approach to the certification process cannot be underestimated. The system documentation that you provide to the FAA during certification will be evaluated using a system safety-based approach. The FAA provides videos to help you gain an understanding of their policies regarding system safety. Early in the certification process you will verify that key company personnel have viewed the following pertinent videos:

- **System Safety.** This is an online presentation that provides valuable information on the FAA's system safety-based approach to certification. In addition to requiring that key air carrier management view the video, the FAA recommends that all company employees watch it as well. [View the System Safety Video.](#)
- **Overview of the Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS).** ATOS is the program the FAA uses to ensure that you comply with regulations and safety standards and are capable of managing hazard-related risk in your system. The videos are online presentations that provide valuable information about the FAA's oversight philosophy and process.
 - **Part 1** presents an overview from the FAA's perspective. See [ATOS Part 1.](#)
 - **Part 2** discusses misconceptions about the ATOS program. See [ATOS Part 2.](#)

In addition to requiring that all key management view the video, the FAA recommends that newly hired management personnel view the videos during company indoctrination to become familiar with ATOS oversight concepts.

In addition to the System Safety and ATOS videos, Advisory Circular ([AC 120-92](#)), *Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Air Operators*, provides information about the FAA's philosophy and intent for air carrier oversight.