



# SASO Fact Sheet

SYSTEM APPROACH FOR SAFETY OVERSIGHT

## SASO Accomplishments

- ▶ Launched initial pilot projects for CFR Parts 121, 135, & 145
- ▶ Collected “As-Is” data and developed process models depicting key roles, workflow, policies and procedures, and tools associated with CFR Part specific certification and surveillance activities
- ▶ Transitioned all CMTs into ATOS (1.1 or 1.2); and included ATOS as a vital piece of the AFS enterprise roadmap

## SASO Timeline

- ▶ **Phase I: Planning & Engineering**  
Will test SASO with three pilot projects (CFR Parts 121, 135, & 145)
- ▶ **Phase II: Implementation**  
All CFR Parts are expected to be working under a common system of safety
- ▶ **Phase III: In-Service Management**  
Continued operation, maintenance, and improvement of AFS system safety

## SASO Program Overview

The System Approach for Safety Oversight Program (SASO) is an AVS initiative to transform the Flight Standards Service (AFS) and the aviation industry to a national standard of system safety.

The focus of SASO is to evaluate and potentially reengineer existing AFS business processes to incorporate system safety practices; develop appropriate supporting information systems and decision support tools; and deploy these assets to effectively and efficiently accomplish the AFS mission.

### SASO: A four part approach

Transformation to a system safety approach will require efforts in:



- ▶ **Business Process Reengineering**  
Changing the work that AFS personnel perform to incorporate system safety
- ▶ **Change Management**  
Understanding and responding to the attitudes and behaviors of AFS personnel as they embrace a new way of doing business
- ▶ **System Alignment**  
Changing existing AFS computer systems to support the new way of doing business
- ▶ **Enterprise Integration**  
Making sure that the new way of doing business meets AVS requirements

### General “As-Is” and “To-Be”

SASO affects many aspects of the Flight Standards Division

Business Areas	Today	Future
<b>Oversight Strategy</b>	Regulatory compliance	Safety risk management
<b>Workforce Skills</b>	Aviation expertise	Aviation expertise, safety management
<b>Regulations &amp; Guidance</b>	Focus on compliance	Compliance through system safety
<b>Information Technology</b>	Independent systems	Integrated enterprise architecture
<b>External Relationships</b>	Varied, circumstantial	Standardized, collaborative
<b>Business Processes</b>	Regulatory compliance, end-product observation	Regulatory compliance, system examination
<b>Management Organizations</b>	Stove-piped programs	Integrated programs



# SASO

## Frequently Asked Questions

SYSTEM APPROACH FOR SAFETY OVERSIGHT

### SASO & SMS

One element of the SASO program is to reengineer AFS oversight processes to leverage the use of increasingly sophisticated Safety Management Systems (SMS) by aviation certificate holders.

While SASO is providing support to the AVS SMS team, its primary role in SMS is to provide the means to implement more effective, efficient and less burdensome oversight techniques as the use of SMS becomes more prevalent across the aviation industry.

### SASO Pilot Projects

SASO is bringing system safety principles to all CFR Parts. In January 2005, three SASO Pilot Projects were requested to provide interim milestones throughout SASO Phase I.

The first pilot project, the SASO CFR Part 121 Pilot Project, was initiated in January 2006 to design, develop, and demonstrate a standard system safety based oversight system for all 121 air carriers based on the ATOS model. In 2007, SASO launched pilot projects for CFR Parts 145 & 135.

### What is SASO?

System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO) is a program established by Flight Standards for developing and implementing a comprehensive, integrated system safety approach to the oversight of all aviation entities.

### Who manages SASO?

SASO is managed by the SASO Program Office (AFS-30) within the FAA's Flight Standards Service (AFS).

### Why is SASO being implemented?

Today, AFS finds itself facing the dual challenges of increasing air traffic and budget pressure. Current FAA forecasts predict a 57% increase in total scheduled U.S. airline passenger traffic over the period of 2005-2016. In order to reduce accidents while effectively managing resources, AFS must change the way it does business to achieve its goals.

### What is system safety and what are some of its benefits?

System safety is the application of special technical and managerial skills to the systematic, forward-looking identification and control of hazards for the aviation industry. System safety is being incorporated into AFS' core business processes to provide a more effective and efficient safety management approach that will further improve the FAA's safety oversight capabilities. In addition, system safety provides a more cost effective means for achieving the FAA and AFS mission.

### How will SASO impact AFS employees?

SASO will help AFS employees attain organizational objectives and goals by more effectively focusing their oversight efforts on high-risk areas. SASO will also align AFS business processes, tools, and infrastructure to help employees more easily accomplish their responsibilities. SASO will incorporate a comprehensive change management program that will prepare employees for forthcoming changes, and assist them in transitioning to a new way of doing business. The change management effort will expand dialogue with the field, involve the work force in program initiatives, provide training, and facilitate the implementation of new processes.

### How will SASO affect AFS' current tools and infrastructure?

Over the course of the multi-year program, the current suite of AFS information systems and decision support tools will be redesigned to accommodate each 14 CFR Part and integrated to better support the information requirements of new system safety based business processes. These changes will make current safety oversight tools and infrastructure more efficient, effective, and user-friendly.

# FAQs

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