

4.5 Independent Operational Assessment Revised 10/2012

The FAA is committed to verifying that new solutions are operationally effective, suitable, and safe before deployment. The Chief Operating Officer, through the Vice President for Safety and Technical Training, designates solutions on which to conduct independent operational assessment. The decision to designate a solution for independent operational assessment is based on such factors as complexity, operational criticality, lifecycle cost, interoperability, and safety risk.

During the early stage of solution implementation, the Independent Safety Assessment Team identifies potential operational and safety risks and communicates them to the acquisition organization. Once acquisition test activities are complete, the Vice President of the acquisition organization will declare in writing to the Vice President of Office of Safety and Technical Training, via the Independent Operational Assessment Readiness Declaration, the readiness of the solution to enter independent operational assessment. Independent operational assessment provides decision-makers with an independent determination of operational readiness in support of production and in-service decisions.