



The Air Charter
Safety Foundation is
pleased to announce

the ACSF Industry Audit Standard

A comprehensive
audit for 135 and
91K operators.

AIR CHARTER


SAFETY
FOUNDATION

ACSF Industry Audit Standard

Why the ACSF Industry Audit Standard?

Members of the Air Charter Safety Foundation and the charter community have expressed concern that their companies are currently subject to numerous audits by third-party aviation auditing companies on behalf of consumers. The preparation for and hosting of these audits has resulted in a significant increase in both staff time and resources to accommodate the various third-party auditing entities, which can be on-site for as little as one day or as much as several weeks.

Operators have expressed concern regarding the variance in the expected operator performance standards by the different audit companies, as well as the degree of competency and knowledge of the individuals conducting the audits.

The aviation community has evolved to the point that change in the standards and audit processes is required if the industry is to keep pace with the demands of the marketplace. Some of the more significant demands include the globalization of the business model, the release and eventual mandatory implementation of a Safety Management Systems (SMS) standard by both FAA and ICAO, and the limited capability of regulatory authorities to provide oversight of the Part 135 and Part 91K community.

It became clear to the ACSF that there should be an industry-wide, single system-safety audit standard that would eliminate the need for repetitive auditing by third-party companies, and would ensure a consistent, high-quality standard throughout the industry.

Will the ACSF Audit Meet Pending FAA and ICAO Requirements?

While the FAA does not currently have a SMS regulation, it has indicated that rule-making to require SMS programs is under initial development. Meanwhile, ICAO has adopted a standard that requires signatory nations to adopt SMS requirements in 2009. ACSF has worked closely with the FAA and international interests to ensure that our audit standard will accomplish two key functions – first, to verify compliance with regulatory requirements, and secondly, to evaluate the level of compliance with recognized SMS standards.

The ACSF Industry Audit Standard, Audit Process and Registry, were developed to position an operator, through a single audit, to gain world-wide recognition of its SMS program.



“From the beginning, our goal has been to bring the various interests – operators, consumers, auditors and even regulators – together to create measurement tool that applies a consistent, high-quality standard to the industry. I am proud to say that we have created a transparent program that we believe accomplishes this goal.”

James K. Coyne, president of ACSF

A comprehensive audit for 135 and 91K operators.

One Comprehensive Audit

The ACSF Industry Audit Standard is a revolutionary program built from the ground up that sets the standard for the independent evaluation of an air charter or shared ownership company's safety and regulatory compliance. It will alleviate the substantial costs and redundancies associated with today's auditing environment – where operators are subject to multiple audits every year that consume precious resources.

The ultimate goal of the Industry Audit Standard is for charter operators and shared aircraft ownership management companies to complete one comprehensive audit on a recurrent basis rather than the multiple audits they currently complete.

The ACSF Industry Audit Standard assures:

- ✓ a quality evaluation of an operator's safety and regulatory compliance. The audit standard was developed with the input and guidance of leading safety auditors, charter operators, shared aircraft ownership companies and charter consumers.
- ✓ the charter consumer that audited and registered operators maintain the highest standards of safety and compliance.
- ✓ participating audit companies and auditors have been accredited by the ACSF.
- ✓ operators and customers alike of the integrity of the program. The integrity of the audit process is maintained through an independent review board that reviews and approves the on-site audit recommendations prior to a company being listed on the ACSF Audit Registry.

How do I participate?

The ACSF IAS is a comprehensive operator evaluation supported by several detailed documents for both the operator and auditors.

Before scheduling an audit, we require completion of the Pre-Audit Checklist. This comprehensive self-assessment will familiarize the operator with the audit process and help ensure that the operator is prepared for the on-site audit. A copy of the completed Pre-Audit Checklist is provided to the audit team, which allows the auditors to pre-plan their on-site time so as to maximize their time while minimizing the impact to the operator's on-going business.

All documents, including the Pre-Audit Self Assessment Checklist, are available at no charge at www.acsf.aero/audit. Once the completed checklist is submitted to ACSF, the operator may schedule an audit.

"I am pleased to see that ACSF has taken the initiative to develop a universal audit standard for charter operators and shared aircraft management companies, similar to what has been in place for years with the scheduled airlines. ICAO and international regulators will be counting on industry codes of practice to help them regulate general aviation around the world. This new standard fills that void for the charter community."

**William R. Voss, president & CEO of
Flight Safety Foundation**



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be audited every year?

No. The ACSF IAS results are valid for 24 months. Only under exceptional circumstances would you be required to submit to a new audit. However, with many operators implementing SMS programs, some may wish to schedule another audit to document their SMS progress. Any successful re-audit resets the 24-month period.

How much will it cost?

Cost is a key concern for all operators. One advantage is that ACSF audit is valid for 24 months. Our fees are scaled based upon the fleet size and ACSF members receive a special discount. To ensure fair pricing additional factors are considered prior to establishing an operator's final audit cost (such as whether multiple bases are utilized). As an example, an ACSF-member operator with four aircraft in Part 135 operations would typically incur audit fees of less than \$10,000 plus travel expenses.

Can I trust the auditors will be fair?

Yes. ACSF has carefully crafted the entire audit system to ensure that all parties can trust in process and outcomes. ACSF has established minimum educational and field experience standards for auditors. Before conducting an ACSF audit, and on a recurrent basis thereafter, every auditor must complete our training program and adhere to the standards set forth in the ACSF IAS. Every audit requires the auditors to submit a detailed report to the ACSF Audit Review Board. Operators will also receive a copy of the final report. This independent review board will make the final determination regarding an audit's outcome. Finally, the same auditors will never conduct consecutive audits on an operator. We believe these, and other measures adopted by ACSF, will create a positive auditing culture within the industry for all involved.

I'm a small charter operator with just a few planes. Can I really pass the audit and become a Registered Operator?

Absolutely. The ACSF IAS is not about setting arbitrary standards that are unattainable for smaller operators. The IAS is designed to review each business as a unique operator and is scalable from the smallest to largest operators. We recognize the wide variety of air charter operations and our audit is appropriate for Single-Pilot Operators using a single-engine piston airplane all the way up to those with large fleets of turbine aircraft.

Contact Russ Lawton at rlawton@acsf.aero for audit scheduling and pricing information.

"NetJets Aviation, Inc. looks forward to completing the ACSF's Industry Audit Standard. Our industry needed to coalesce around one comprehensive audit standard and the Air Charter Safety Foundation has provided the community with the model standard."

**James C. Christiansen, president,
NetJets Aviation, Inc.**

