

SMS stands for Safety Management System. SMS is a management system for integrating safety activities into normal day-to-day business practices. It is designed to help organizations integrate a systematic risk-based and process-oriented approach to managing safety.

SMS:

- Is a systematic, comprehensive program for the management of safety risks
- Provides a foundation to organize safety through planning, goal setting, training, program implementation and performance measurement
- Is information and data driven
- Is business-like approach to safety management
- Is based upon best practices

Why Should You Have A SMS?

A fully implemented SMS has tangible safety, business and FAA oversight benefits. Additionally, many nations (including the United States) have or soon will adopt regulations mandating that operators have a SMS program.

Safety

SMS serves as the core of an operator's safety efforts, providing a quality management approach to identifying and controlling risk. Safety is the driving factor for decision making at all levels of the company. A critical component of a healthy SMS is the ability for all employees to report safety related events or hazards and to have management take proactive stance to address these risks before accidents occur.

Business

Managing risk through a SMS necessitates quality assurance concepts, emphasizes process management and continuous improvement. Like many other corollary programs for other industries (such as manufacturing) businesses often see tangible benefits in the form of increased efficiencies, reduction in hazardous occurrences, and other benefits that directly and indirectly translate in to cost savings.

FAA Oversight

The level of detail in process and procedural documentation necessary to support a SMS provides a highly efficient means of ensuring compliance with applicable regulations and for demonstrating that compliance in an on-going manner to FAA or other government agencies (e.g., EPA, TSA) that may have oversight over your business.



There are Four Components or “Pillars” of SMS

Pillar 1 - Safety Policy:

- Procedures
- Organization

All management systems must define policies, procedures, and organizational structures to accomplish their goals.

Pillar 2 – Safety Risk Management:

- Hazard Identification & Tracking
- Risk Assessment
- Risk Mitigation

A formal system of hazard identification, analysis and risk management is essential in controlling risk to acceptable levels.

Pillar 3 - Safety Assurance:

- Corrective Action
- Internal Audits

Once controls are identified, the SMS must assure they are continuously practiced and continue to be effective in a changing environment.

Pillar 4 - Safety Promotion:

- Culture
- Training
- Communication

The organization must promote safety as a core value with practices that support a positive safety culture.

You can learn more about SMS programs and how you can begin to implement one by using the Air Charter Safety Foundation’s SMS resource page at www.acsf.aero/sms.



Through research, collaboration and education, the Air Charter Safety Foundation advances charter and shared aircraft ownership industry standards and best practices; promulgates safety, security and service benchmarks; and promotes the universal acceptance of safety management systems.