FAA SMS – Safety Assurance

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) publishes Advisory Circular 120-92B, *Safety Management Systems (SMSs) for Aviation Service Providers.* The Advisory Circular describes the regulatory requirements, guidance, and methods of developing and implementing an SMS – designating "what" must be accomplished, not "how" it must be accomplished. The aim of the FAA SMS is to integrate safety programs and contemporary safety concepts into an SMS, emphasizing safety as a fundamental business process.

Safety Assurance is a component of the FAA SMS, providing the checks and balances needed to ensure your processes are effective and align with safety policy. It tells your organization how your SMS is performing. The Safety Assurance component establishes how you monitor and measure safety performance and emphasizes continuous improvement.

Safety Assurance helps you monitor and measure your SMS through:

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- Acquisition of data from operations, products, and services to monitor safety performance

- Employment of a process to capture operational changes and manage change related to the SMS

- Completion of audits to assess the safety performance of operational processes and systems

- Execution of incident investigation processes to identify what went wrong and prevent reoccurrences

- Establishment of an employee reporting system for hazards, incidents, and safety improvements

- Execution of SMS evaluations and performance assessments to evaluate:

  o The effectiveness of organizational processes, procedures, and systems

  o Integration of the SMS with other business processes

  o Safety performance against organizational safety objectives

  o Use and feasibility of safety risk controls

  o Overall effectiveness of how the SMS functions

Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5, Subpart D provides additional information regarding Safety Assurance. Additionally, visit the FAA for additional information on SMS expectations.

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: https://www.smscx.org/.

SMCX
DoD Safety Management Center of Excellence