



Industry SMS Definitions

Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority

A safety management system is a systematic approach to managing safety, including the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures. An SMS is scalable, therefore it is tailored to the size and complexity of the organization.

FAA

SMS is the formal, top-down business approach to managing safety risk, which includes a systemic approach to managing safety, including the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures. (FAA Order VS 8000.367)

Safety Management System (SMS) means the formal, top-down, organization-wide approach to managing safety risk and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk controls. It includes systematic procedures, practices, and policies for the management of safety risk. (14 CFR Part 5 §5.5)

EUROCONTROL Safety Regulatory Requirements

(ESARR 3)

A systematic and explicit approach defining the activities by which safety management is undertaken by an organization in order to achieve acceptable or tolerable safety.

ICAO Definition

A systemic approach to managing safety, including the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures.

IS-BAO

The systematic and comprehensive process for the proactive management of safety-risks that integrates the management of operations and technical systems with financial and human resource management.

Transport Canada

A documented process for managing risks that integrates operations and technical systems with the management of financial and human resources to ensure aviation safety or the safety of the public.

UK Civil Aviation Authority

(Guidance to organizations)

SMS is a proactive and integrated approach to Safety. It should be integrated into the management system of an organization. It should describe the structure and scope of the organization, available resources, staff accountabilities, authorities and responsibilities and how decisions are taken and managed throughout the organization.

UK Civil Aviation Authority

(For small, non-complex organizations – CAP 1059)

An SMS is an organized approach to managing safety. It sets out the organization's structure, identifies the accountabilities and responsibilities of key staff members and documents the policies and procedures to manage safety effectively. An effective SMS allows the hazards and risks that could affect your organization to be identified, assessed and prioritized so that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place to reduce the risks to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).