



SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS) TRAINING

Safety Management Systems (SMS) have been prevalent in many countries for years, but safety managers often do not know how to explain the (economic) benefits compared to the costs of operating in an unsafe environment.

In the past, aviation safety improvement has mostly been driven by an investigative approach. For instance, when an accident happened, it was investigated in order to find its causes and then recommendations were made to prevent reoccurrence of the accident (reactive approach). Today it is commonly accepted that it is more productive to introduce SMS to organizations in time to achieve safer operations and to manage risk proactively.

Nowadays a SMS is defined as a competent approach to safety. A SMS is a system that deals with safety characteristics throughout a whole organization. The system offers a systematic way of categorizing hazards and managing risks pledging that these controls are also effectual. SMS is expected to be incorporated into an organization and to become part of its organisational safety culture, i.e. of the way all of its employees do their job.

The purpose of a SMS is to support the step away from regulatory framework that only specifies criteria that should be adhered to performance-based regulations that describe objectives and allow each regulated entity to develop its own system for achieving the objectives. Despite of the fact that a SMS means an important progress in safety management, it can only be effective if it is implemented. A SMS allows organizations to ensure that all risks are well covered within the organization as a single system, rather than having multiple competing Safety Management entities. If safety is not perceived as being holistic, i.e. as a whole system, it can easily interfere with the prioritization of improvements or even result in safety issues being missed. In such cases it can be presumed that the company has put too much emphasis on personal safety thus ignoring the safety of their processes. The best way to remedy such “entity thinking” is by proper evaluation of all risks - a key aspect of an effective SMS.



Safety Management Systems (SMS) have proven to be an effective management tool to achieve safety within an organization and within an industry as a whole. Although each organization is different, there are always common benefits that can be shared among them:

- A proactive method of improving safety rather than the old reactive approach, which was mainly initiated after an accident had occurred
- Reduced loss of life and injuries by prevention of accidents and incidents
- Improved employee satisfaction by involvement in the safety process
- More efficient interface with regulatory authorities

The development and implementation of an SMS will not only allow ANSPs (Air Navigation Service Providers) to accomplish their legal responsibilities (compliance), but will definitely also provide significant business benefits. The ICAO SMS Manual comprises internal appraisal and quality assertion concepts, which will result in more controlled management and continuous improvement of operational processes. The SMS outlined in the ICAO Manual is designed to allow the incorporation of safety efforts into the operator's business model and to assimilate other systems such as quality, occupational safety and environmental control systems that operators might already have in place or might be considering. Operators who have integrated SMS into their business models reported considerable financial benefits going in line with consistent compliance and increased safety levels.

Duration of basic training course in Austria: 3 days
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will be tailored to customer's needs and
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