



Safety Corner Corporate Air Newsletter

February 2017

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR AVIATION SAFETY

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SMS - Risk Based Approach

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Testing of SMS

SMS is a risk-based approach to safety where risks are identified, assessed and placed into existing, or new operational programs. SMS is the management of variables in a Timing Management System (TMS). Timing of variables is a fundamental factor of risk management. It is irrelevant to safety-specific if an airplane is parked on the hanger line due to mechanical failures, but becomes relevant for the purpose of flight. If a crew is waiting for that same airplane to be airworthy, the issue of mechanical failure becomes a variable highly important to safety.

Change Management

A change-management system must be in place for tabletop exercises and testing how changes affects SMS operational systems. When introducing changes as new equipment or processes, scenarios are configured and played out to establish the risk-factor for risk-factor management. These change-management analysis becomes virtual events of the future, as they are not assessed based on future data collection, but based on past data collection of similar scenarios.

Human Factors

When operational changes or new processes are introduced without a change-management system in place the testing of SMS is not fully completed. Operational changes involve human factors which are not regular variables, but special and often unpredictable variations. These human factors cannot be applied to react in the same manner to changes as mechanical factors do. When eliminating human factors from the equation when testing SMS, skews a risk assessment in favor of assumptions.

New Equipment or Contractors

Introduction of new equipment or processes is done with the expectancy that changes are improvements to increased productivity with a higher rate of return on cash invested. When new airplanes are introduced it is assumed that this will attract more customers and improve service in a competitive world. Airlines with an operational philosophy of high quality customer service have greater chances to attract more repetitious flyers and paint a positive image of the company.

[Airport Hazard Reporting](#)



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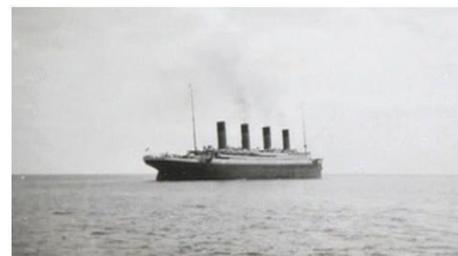
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Have a safe day flying, an enjoyable day at the maintenance shop or a great day at the office!

*"If you do not know how to ask the right question, you discover nothing."
W. Edwards Deming*

Things to Remember

"When anyone asks me how I can best describe my experiences in nearly 40 years at sea, I merely say, uneventful. Of course, there have been winter gales, and storms and fog and the like, but in all my experience I have never been in any accident of any sort worth speaking about. I have seen but one vessel in distress in all my years at sea – a brig, the crew of which were taken off in a small boat in charge of my third officer. I never saw a wreck and have never been wrecked, nor was I ever in any predicament that threatened to end in disaster of any sort. You see, I am not very good material for a story." Captain Edward Smith, 1907



SMS Knowledge Base

Check out these great [SMS Blogs](#) SMS is the management of operations for a safe environment for personnel and for the safe operations of an airplane.