



Innovation Hub Safety Management Systems (SMS) for Innovators

Overview

The purpose of this guide is to provide an introduction to the Safety Management System (SMS) and describe how it can help you as an innovator.

A Safety Management System (SMS) is a systematic and proactive approach to managing safety risks related to your operation. [Page 3](#) provides some further background.

There are many benefits to applying SMS principles, and embedding an SMS into your operation, as outlined on [Page 4](#).

There is already plenty of existing guidance available from the CAA for establishing your own Safety Management System and [Page 5](#) sets you off on the right steps.

Safety and quality management systems are important for making sure that your business and operations are safe and efficient. But there are some key differences, described on [Page 6](#), between an SMS and a QMS.

Finally, this document provides links on [Page 7](#) to the relevant guidance to help you with your SMS.

What is a Safety Management System?

A Safety Management System (SMS) is a systematic and proactive approach to managing safety risks related to your operation.

Risk management activities are at the heart of SMS, including identifying safety issues, assessing the risks and then determining how to mitigate them. It is supported by a strong assurance function that monitors compliance and performance as well as managing changes.

To be effective, the SMS needs the right policies, processes and procedures in place. In addition to this, it is critical to have the **safety leadership** in place to enable the SMS to perform.



Who needs to have an SMS?

Depending on the type of organisation you are, and the approvals you require, you may or may not need to have an SMS. However, SMS includes a lot of **good practice**, based on high standards of aviation safety. While you may not be required to have one, it is a good idea to apply the principles. Adopting these now will also be helpful in terms of being **ready for future regulatory approvals** or permissions.

The organisations who are required to have an SMS are:

-  Operators, including training organisations
-  Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP)
-  Aerodromes
-  Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisations (CAMO)
-  Light UAS operator certificate holders