



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**NOTICE
N 8700.49**

Effective Date:
10/11/06
Cancellation Date:
10/11/07

SUBJ: SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- 1. PURPOSE.** This notice provides guidance to principal operations inspectors (POI), principal maintenance inspectors (PMI) and principal avionics inspectors (PAI) in the use of Advisory Circular (AC) 120-92, Safety Management Systems.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This notice is distributed to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters; to the branch level in the regional Flight Standards divisions; to the Flight Standards District Offices, and to the Regulatory Standards Division at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. This notice is also distributed electronically to the division level in the Flight Standards Service in Washington headquarters and to all regional Flight Standards divisions and district offices. This information is also available on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) employee Web site at <http://fsims.avr.faa.gov/fsims/fsims.nsf/> and on the FAA Web site at http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/examiners_inspectors/8700/.
- 3. BACKGROUND.** On June 22, 2006, AC 120-92 was published establishing the guidelines for the use of safety management systems (SMS) in the aviation industry. This AC is non-regulatory in nature and intended to provide guidance to aviation industry participants (air carrier certificate holders, program managers, operators, repair stations, etc.) in the development and/or use of an SMS. While the information contained in the AC may be beneficial, it is not the only means that an aviation industry participant may use if it elects to develop and implement an SMS.
- 4. DISCUSSION.**
 - a.** Although current FAA regulations do not mandate the development of an SMS, the FAA encourages the aviation industry to consider the benefits of an SMS and the development and implementation of associated principals.
 - b.** The purpose of AC 120-92 is to educate aviation industry participants on the nature of an SMS, providing guidelines that may be beneficial in the development and implementation of an SMS.
 - c.** If an aviation industry participant elects to develop and implement an SMS, the principal inspector (PI) should participate in the development process and subsequent implementation of the SMS.
 - (1)** The PI may assist the industry in identifying components of an SMS that already exists in their organization.

(2) The PI may also assist in identifying existing programs that have qualities of an SMS, e.g., the National Air Transportation Association Safety First program, International Standards for Business Aircraft Operations, etc.

(3) The PI and aviation industry participant may access additional information regarding an SMS by reading those materials referenced in the AC 120-92.

5. ACTION. PIs should familiarize themselves with the contents of this notice and associated SMS publications as soon as they are published and available on the Flight Standards Management Information System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avr.faa.gov/fsims/fsims.nsf/home?OpenForm> and on the FAA Web site at http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/examiners_inspectors/8700/.

6. DISPOSITION. This notice will not be incorporated into Order 8700.1, General Aviation Inspector's Handbook. Questions concerning this notice should be directed to AFS-800 at (202) 267-8212.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
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