



Welcome to SAS News!

SAS News will provide an awareness of SAS topics to inform and educate AFS personnel on important issues about the preparation, implementation, and commitment to SAS. In previous years, you may remember SAS Grow Your Knowledge newsletters; SAS News will replace that newsletter. The System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO) Program Office will publish SAS News on alternating months to update Flight Standards Service (AFS) on the latest SAS developments.



PEOPLE, PROCESSES, AND TECHNOLOGY

In this issue:

- Welcome to SAS News! 1
- SAS Update 1
- Leadership Corner. 1
- Defining SAS. 2
- Ready...Set...START! 2
- What You Can Expect 2

SAS Update

Over recent years, many of you have heard about SAS to varying degrees. The SASO Program Office is committed to ensure all AFS personnel know about the ongoing preparation for SAS implementation and the efforts that have led us to this point. Numerous people and organizations have been working together to detail intricate policies and procedures ensuring the maximum effectiveness for SAS deployment. Lessons learned and feedback from previous FAA initiatives such as ATOS and eFSAS have been incorporated as guiding principles for communicating key information and building a general awareness of SAS. We were told that we didn't communicate enough; that we didn't provide enough training. We heard you! We are fully committed to managing the changes created by the transition to SAS, as well as building classes that will serve as positive education tools. Some classes will be web-based training (WBT) and others will be instructor-led in Oklahoma City and at your respective offices.



Leadership Corner

John Allen, Director AFS-1

"SAS is a new surveillance system that can propagate system safety principles so we are proactive, not reactive, in understanding where the risks are. We have learned some lessons and SAS is going to extrapolate these lessons so we can improve. SAS is not being thrust upon us: It is not a revolution, it's an evolution. It's not something that being done to us, it's something we must do responsibly to keep ourselves sophisticated and meet future challenges."





Defining SAS

SAS is the next evolution of oversight that employs system safety principles. SAS is an integrated system that encompasses people, processes, and technology, and is a structured way to conduct certification and surveillance. It standardizes the oversight of 14 CFR parts 121, 135, and 145 certificate holders and applicants, and will extend to the other applicable CFR parts in the future. SAS will improve aviation safety beyond current levels using data-supported, risk-based, certification and surveillance activities. By providing standardized protocols, SAS enables the inspector to assess the safety of certificate holder operations using system safety principles, safety attributes, and safety risk management practices. As you know, System Safety involves identifying hazards and eliminating or controlling the risks associated with those hazards.

SAS provides a robust set of tools that allows inspectors to more effectively accomplish what they have always done. SAS will affect every AFS Field Office in the world, so all AFS employees must have an understanding of SAS.

SAS Key Points

- As a standardized process for certification and oversight of 14 CFR parts 121, 135, and 145, SAS supports the inspector’s efforts to validate the certificate holder’s ability to manage risk and safety objectives
- SAS is scalable and will tailor oversight to the size and complexity of each certificate holder while maintaining a single, standardized process
- SAS is a closed-loop business process for design and performance assessments; the findings of the work program are fed back into the system for Analysis, Assessment, and Action
- SAS leverages the use of FAA resources through prioritization, automation, and resource sharing

SAS Benefits

Aviation systems are changing rapidly with new technologies, procedures, and increased environmental concerns. There is also an increase in system demand with more people flying and more types of aircraft in the air, which have more operations and maintenance complexity than ever. With a risk-based, data-supported approach to oversight, SAS will enhance aviation safety by ensuring resources and oversight is focused on the highest risks within this dynamic aviation environment.

SAS will:

- Assist Principal Inspectors (PI) to quantify risks associated with hazards inherent in a certificate holder’s operation, resulting in more accurate decisions concerning the need for new or revised risk controls
- Help a PI manage their work more effectively by ranking work activities based on calculated risk
- Permit a certificate holder to suggest limited changes to their operating profile through the external portal. This will ultimately reduce data entry for inspectors and allow them to fully consider the implications of proposed changes a certificate holder wishes to make
- Prioritize inspection tasks based on oversight priorities at the certificate holder and national level
- Allow consolidation and analysis of data at a national level in order to identify areas of greatest oversight priority
- Establish a standardized process for certification and oversight

Ready...Set...START!

The SAS Transition and Readiness Team (START) was implemented to assist the AFS workforce transition to SAS. This comes as a direct result of input we received from the field after deployment of other systems. START members assist their local office with the transition to SAS by sharing SAS knowledge with office colleagues and being a locally available Subject Matter Expert (SME).

The SAS transition has been designed for your success. SAS will be uniquely different in that a training team will not arrive, train you, and then depart. START members will serve as resident SMEs in your office, so an inspector will never be “on their own;” not before, not during, and not after the transition. START members will serve as a liaison between their office, AFS-500, and the Field Support Program Office (FSPO)/AFS-900. START members will provide communication support by delivering tailored messages and responding to inquiries, plus training support during SAS training and implementation. In the event that they need additional information, the START member will reach out to their FSPO partner.

What You Can Expect

The SAS transition stages have been carefully planned and include a special focus on communicating SAS information, developing specialized training, and ensuring a commitment to long-term SAS success.

Your Input is Vital!

We have been listening, learning, and continue to encourage your involvement and inputs.

To leave comments or questions about SAS, send an email to **9-AWA-AFS-900-SASO@faa.gov** or contact your office START member.

