SM ICG Holds 'Industry Day' Outreach Event with European Aviation Industry

The Safety Management International Collaboration Group (SM ICG), a group of 12 aviation regulatory bodies, held its second Industry Day with representatives from 19 European aviation industry organizations on April 19, 2013 in The Hague, Netherlands. Industry Day marks a unique opportunity for aviation service providers to hear directly from authorities that are working together and for those authorities to receive feedback on SM ICG products. The full day session, hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Netherlands, included seven presentations and an open discussion on safety performance measurement and how aviation service providers manage interfaces with their own contractors, partners, and customers.

The SM ICG was established in 2009 to promote a common understanding of safety management principles and requirements, facilitating their application across the international aviation community. Since its formation, the group has published several products and has begun to focus more on outreach to the greater international aviation community. The SM ICG held its first Industry Day in Ottawa, Canada in October 2012 during its semi-annual meeting with representatives from the Canadian aviation industry.

Rob Huyser, Acting Director General for Civil Aviation in The Netherlands, kicked off the day by acknowledging that both aviation service providers and regulators face challenges in safety management implementation. He pointed out that "In this room, we have nearly half of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Safety Management Panel members that have been working on Annex 19 - Safety Management. There is quite an opportunity to do some serious networking today."

After opening remarks, Simon Roberts, UK CAA SMS Programme Manager and Chair of European Human Factors Advisory Group, gave an overview of the SM ICG and its work. Five industry representatives (Job Brüggen, Air Traffic Control Netherlands; Hendrik Boedecker, Lufthansa Technik; Robert Jan de Boer, University of Amsterdam Study of KLM Ground Services; Sam Espig, Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO); and Eric Kruijsen, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines) briefed their experiences with safety performance measurement, as did Dr. Don Arendt from the Federal Aviation Administration. Industry day speaker biographies and all presentations are available for download at

Industry Day participants discussed both safety performance measurement and other safety management challenges. Topics included the coordination/harmonization across several air navigation service providers in Europe, approvals from multiple States looking at a service provider safety management system (SMS), the development of performance targets that are both measurable and meaningful, and turning data into intelligence.

Michael Hickey of the European Low Fares Airline Association found the discussion very useful and thought it was good for operators to hear best practices. Jacqueline Booth, Chief of Technical Program Evaluation and Coordination at Transport Canada and current SM ICG Chair, thanked industry participants and concluded, "As we SM ICG members are working together toward a harmonized approach to SMS and the State Safety Programme (SSP), we want to hear about your experiences. Insight into your successes and challenges will help us focus our efforts and develop products that will be useful to the global aviation community."

Send Feedback

The SM ICG welcomes your feedback. For further information regarding the SM ICG or to provide feedback on SM ICG products, please contact Régine Hamelijnck, Amer Younossi, or Jacqueline Booth.
This paper was prepared by the Standardization Workgroup of the Safety Management International Collaboration Group (SM ICG). The purpose of the SM ICG is to promote a common understanding of Safety Management System (SMS)/State Safety Program (SSP) principles and requirements, facilitating their application across the international aviation community.

The current core membership of the SM ICG includes the Aviation Safety and Security Agency (AESA) of Spain, the National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) of Brazil, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Netherlands (CAA NL), the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) of Australia, the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) in France, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) of Switzerland, Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aviation Safety Organization, Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of United Kingdom (UK CAA). Additionally, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is an observer to this group.

Members of the SM ICG:
- Collaborate on common SMS/SSP topics of interest
- Share lessons learned
- Encourage the progression of a harmonized SMS
- Share products with the aviation community
- Collaborate with international organizations such as ICAO and civil aviation authorities that have implemented or are implementing SMS

For further information regarding the SM ICG please contact:

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