

What PMA Manufacturers need to know about adopting a Voluntary SMS Program



Federal Aviation
Administration



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Topics

- **SMS Part 5 Rule and Resources**
- **Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) Voluntary SMS (VSMS)**
- **VSMS Program**
- **VSMS Benefits**
- **VSMS Process**



Safety Management Systems (SMS)

- **SMS final rule (14 CFR part 5) effective May 28, 2024**
 - Applies to certain type certificate and production certificate holders.
 - Does not apply to PMA holders or repair stations.
 - SMS provides a structured, repeatable, and systematic approach to proactively identify hazards and manage safety risk.
- **PMA holders are encouraged to join the Aircraft Certification Service's (AIR) Voluntary SMS (VSMS) program**
 - FAA will review, accept, and provide oversight for those under the AIR VSMS program.
 - FAA will provide an acceptance letter recognizing an accepted VSMS under the AIR VSMS program.
- **Repair stations may join the Flight Standards' voluntary SMS program**



Safety Management Systems (SMS)

- **Contact FAA at the following address to learn more about the AIR VSMS program:** Email: 9-AVS-AIR-SMS@faa.gov
- **Materials available to support SMS implementation:**
 - Advisory Circular (AC) 21-58
 - Provides guidance for organizations that are developing and implementing an SMS.
 - AC 21-58 is available on the FAA Dynamic Regulatory System (DRS) ([AC 21-58 - Safety Management Systems for Part 21 Type and Production Certificate Holders \(faa.gov\)](#)).
 - FAA Order 8120.24
 - Provides guidance on how FAA personnel will process those that must have a SMS under part 5, as well as, for a voluntary SMS participant under the AIR VSMS program.
 - Order 8120.24 is available on DRS [Order 8120.24 - Implementation Plan Approval, Verification, and Evaluation of Safety Management Systems for Design and Production Approval Holders \(faa.gov\)](#)



AIRs Voluntary SMS Program

- **Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) continues to support the FAA's Voluntary SMS Program.**
- **AIR's Voluntary SMS:**
 - Available to all FAA production approval holders.
 - Promoted industry involvement and feedback at early stages prior to rule implementation.
 - Promoted industry adoption of SMS and compliance with the SMS final rule.
 - Supports the **seamless transition** of companies to an SMS that meets part 5 requirements.
 - Aligns with FAA's Flight Standards Service (AFS) – some companies seek a corporate SMS (multiple certificates – part 21 & 145).



AIR's Voluntary SMS – The Benefits

1. It's **voluntary**

- You don't have to adopt it – or you can proceed incrementally, as resources allow.
- You can dig in now, conduct gap analysis, and work toward FAA validation and acceptance.

2. It's **scalable**

- Small companies with **limited resources** can adopt a version of SMS that is right-sized for them.
- Larger companies — with more staff and greater resources — can develop a more robust SMS program.

3. FAA **staff and resources ready to help**

- AIR's [VSMS webpage](#).
- FAA's SMS Program Office & mailbox (9-AVS-AIR-SMS@faa.gov)

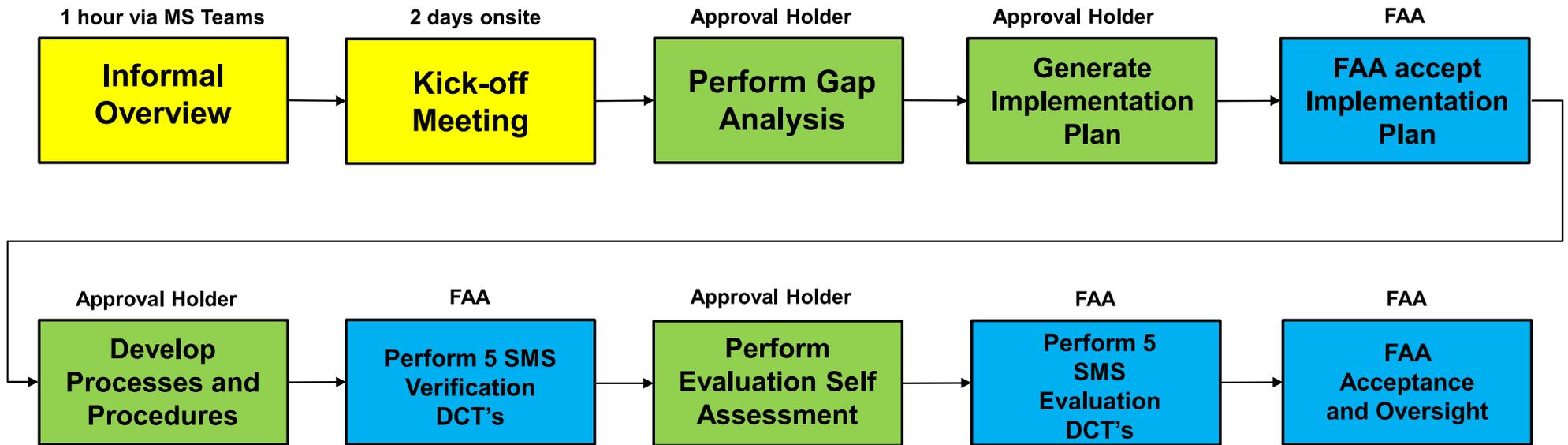
4. Receive official **FAA Letter of Acceptance**.

- Companies that successfully complete the SMS evaluation will receive FAA validation of their SMS in the form of an official FAA letter of acceptance (reflecting satisfied intent of 14 CFR part 5 — the SMS rules).
- Such FAA recognition would enable you to show your customers — and potential customers — that your safety management system is on par with the major U.S. airlines and several large OEMs.



Voluntary SMS – the Process

- Certificate Holder
- FAA: Certification Branch / Certificate Management Sections



Questions & Feedback

For Questions and support:

- FAA Office of Safety Standards, **SMS Program Office:** 9-FAA-AIR-SMS@faa.gov

