

ALASKA AIR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

=A=I=R=M=A=I=L=

Dec 15, 2008

In This Issue

[FAA InFO Issued on SMS](#)

[SMS at the AACA Convention](#)

[TSAN Directive Regarding Airport ID Badges](#)

[Aviation Infrastructure Funding](#)

[AACA Convention](#)

[Submit Safety Concerns](#)

[Scholarship Deadline Extended](#)

FAA Issues an InFO on SMS Concerns

Last week, the FAA published a document regarding Safety Management Systems (SMS) international requirements.

[InFO 08053](#) explains that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has established a requirement for member states to impose SMS requirements on operators. The current deadline to complete this step is January 1, 2009, although a delay may still occur. The U.S. has not yet established a regulatory requirement for the program.

SMS will be introduced at the AACA convention in March 2009.

The FAA has published guidance material in the form of AC 120-92, Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Operators, which provides air carriers with information necessary to establish an SMS program. Because there is no existing SMS mandate, the FAA is now working to file a difference with ICAO. The lack of an SMS regulation and, more importantly, the inability for the FAA to issue a formal approval or acceptance of an air carrier's program could prove quite problematic for air carriers, including Part 135 operators conducting international operations in the future.

Any nation that has an SMS requirement may choose to accept or reject the FAA difference. Acceptance of the difference would allow U.S. carriers to continue to conduct flights to that nation. However, a rejection of the difference could prohibit operations.

The FAA has initiated a process to evaluate rulemaking options, and NATA is working closely with the agency to develop an approval or acceptance mechanism for those air carriers that have already started an SMS program. Regardless of FAA regulatory requirements, international operators will likely need to begin the SMS implementation sooner rather than later.

To avoid future operational restrictions because an SMS is not implemented, all operators are encouraged to become familiar with the SMS concept and begin action to implement a program. Typically, it takes three to four years to establish a fully implemented SMS program.

SUBMIT YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS

Air carriers and their staff are invited to submit safety concerns or issues you would like considered by the AACA Joint Safety Committee (JSC).

The JSC meets in the AACA offices at 10am on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are closed door and anything can be discussed with anonymity. The JSC committee is small and composed of representation from the NTSB, UAA, DOT&PF, FAA, AMD, Medallion, AACA, and industry.

The JSC has been an effective force for safety change in the Alaska aviation industry. The Medallion Foundation, the Alliance for Safety, and the Circle of Safety each came from the JSC.

You may send concerns to the AACA Executive Director joy@alaskaaircarriers.org, the AACA President, Wilfred Ryan wryan@atsak.com or to the JSC Chairman, Bob Hajdukovich via his email bob@frontierflying.com.

The JSC is currently taking action on sixteen issues. These include NOTAMs, Runway Condition Reporting, Data Card Installation, Ground Obstruction Reporting and Charting, and conditions at the Bethel Airport.

Don't Miss "An Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Alaskan Operators" at the AACA Annual Convention

The Medallion Foundation, John Steuernagle, Mike Halloran, and the FAA team are working together on the SMS Project in Alaska. Alaska air carriers are participating with Medallion and the FAA during formation of the SMA program.

Safety Management Systems - SMS is quickly becoming recognized as a foundational business practice utilized in aviation organizations as commonly as Financial and Quality Management Systems.

Progressive air operators are actively working with members of the FAA's Flight Standards SMS Program Office, assisting operators and their certificate management teams in developing and implementing SMS in their organizations.

The FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam), in coordination with the SMS Program office is assisting in this effort.

During the AACA Annual Conference a breakout session shall be presented by members of the FAASTeam, SMS Transition and Assistance Team and the Medallion Foundation. The presentation will include:

- a conceptual overview of Safety.
- an explanation of Safety Management System fundamentals.
- a more detailed discussion of how Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance work within a Safety Management System.
- an understanding of the Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships of the Operator and Oversight Authority surrounding SMS.
- the value of developing and instituting a Safety Management System.
- a brief comparison and contrast of Safety management Systems, the Air Transportation Oversight System, and Quality Management Systems.
- an overview of Guidance material and Tools available to develop a Safety Management System in an organization.
- a description of the Flight Standards Voluntary SMS Implementation process.

This presentation is designed to last approximately 1.5 hours, with more time being allowed for questions & answers during and after the delivery.

TSA Directive Regarding Airport Issued ID Badges

Last week, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a new Security Directive (SD) requiring airport operators to perform "additional security measures prior to issuing airport identification media to the individuals who apply for or hold airport-issued identification media at U.S. airports."

According to the TSA, "The airport operator must immediately pass the information and directives set forth in this SD to all stations affected. The airport operator must disseminate this information to senior management personnel, authorized airport operator representatives, and supervisory security personnel at affected locations. All airport operator personnel implementing this SD must be briefed by the airport operator on its content and the restrictions governing dissemination."

To download a copy of the Aviation Security Directive Advisory, please [click here](#).

AACA Scholarship Deadline Extended

The deadline has been extended for receipt of applications for the Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship. Applications will be received through Jan 15, 2009. You can get an application by visiting the AACA website: www.alaskaaircarriers.org

Bet on a Sure Thing: SAFETY

AACA 43rd Annual Conference

March 2-7, 2009
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

is on the
AACA website
www.alaskaaircarriers.org

Trade Show FREE

and
Open to the Public
all three days!

Encourage Congress to Support Aviation Infrastructure Funding

What's at Issue

The United States Congress has been working on an additional economic stimulus package to be ready for President-elect Obama when he takes office on January 20, 2009. The proposed legislation is intended to be an infrastructure funding package designed to aid highway, bridge, railroad and aviation projects that have been put on hold due to lack of federal funding through appropriations and lack of state funding.

Why It's Important

Congressional leadership and President-elect Obama have stated that the legislation could provide three times the amount of the last economic stimulus legislation, reaching close to \$700 billion. The intent of this legislation is to infuse money into our infrastructure system that will create million of jobs, helping to boost the economy.

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure recently held a hearing "Investing in Infrastructure: The Road to Recovery" that examined how infrastructure investment contributes to job creation and economic recovery. The committee calculated that \$30 billion dedicated to transportation infrastructure would create or sustain more than 834,000 jobs. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$600 million in aviation infrastructure projects within the Airport Improvement Program alone would permit essential ready-to-go projects such as taxiway rehabilitation and widening; apron construction and rehabilitation; airport rescue and firefighting equipment and facilities; and public access roads to proceed without further delay.

Bet on a Sure Thing: SAFETY

AACA 43rd Annual Conference
March 2-7, 2009
Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

Make plans now to attend the AACA Annual Conference in early March.

Saturday morning the Iditarod Ceremonial start takes place right outside the hotel, so be sure to stay over and enjoy this inspirational event!

Witness the unbridled enthusiasm of the dogs as they strain against their harnesses and holders until the gun sounds and they explode forward. Their eagerness will warm your hearts, and you can share in the AACA Iditarod Brunch to warm your hands and bellies!



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE is on the website:

www.alaskaaircarriers.org

Trade Show FREE

and Open to the Public all three days!

This year, the Trade Show is open free to the public and we look forward to seeing you at the trade show and at the educational sessions throughout the week!

AACA 2009 CONVENTION

SPONSORS

[AirSure](#)

[Crowley](#)

[Standard Aero](#)

[Lynden](#)

[Alaska Airlines](#)

[Marsh](#)

[Frontier](#)

[AIG Aviation](#)

[Everts Air](#)

[Warbelows](#)

[Denali Alaska Credit Union](#)

[Denali Alaska Insurance](#)

[Janssen Contracting](#)

[Caledonian Insurance](#)

[Rockwell Collins](#)

Pay your 2009

AACA dues NOW

to be included in the

AACA 2009 Directory!

AVIATION EVENTS

Feb 24-26, 2009
HAI (Helicopter Expo)
Anaheim, CA

Mar 2-6, 2009
AACA Annual
Convention & Trade
Show
Anchorage, AK

Mar 12-14, 2009
NBAA Light Airplane
Conference
San Diego, CA