

THE NATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE 2026

RISK-BASED OVERSIGHT

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The Impact of SMS Maturity on the Roll-out of
Risk-Based Oversight (RBO)

To demonstrate how SMS maturity directly enables effective
Risk-Based Oversight shapes an organisation's risk profile



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The Impact of SMS Maturity on the Roll-out of Risk-Based Oversight (RBO)

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Introduction & Context:

- Aviation oversight is transitioning from compliance-based to risk-based
- SACAA RBO relies heavily on data quality, SMS maturity, and proactive risk management
- Not all organisations start at the same SMS maturity level



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What is SMS Maturity?

SMS maturity evolves across **four levels**

- Reactive – Addressing incidents after they occur
- Compliant – Processes exist but are paper-driven
- Proactive – Hazard identification and safety performance monitoring
- Predictive – Data-driven, trend-based risk anticipation



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SACAA Risk-Based Oversight – What's Different?:

SMS maturity evolves across four levels

- Focus on risk profile, not uniform audit cycles
- Uses:
 - Safety data analysis
 - Occurrence trends
 - SMS effectiveness indicators
- Oversight intensity varies based on demonstrated risk control



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Relationship Between Proactive SMS & RBO:

A mature SMS enables:

- Accurate hazard identification
- Effective risk assessments
- Meaningful preventive and mitigative controls
- Early warning of systemic issues

Link to RBO:

- SACAA can:
 - Reduce unnecessary inspections
 - Focus on high-risk areas
 - Trust organisational safety decision-making



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Measuring SMS Effectiveness:

Organisations measure SMS effectiveness through:

- Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs)
- Hazard closure rates
- Effectiveness of mitigations
- Management of Change outcomes
- Safety assurance and internal audits

Role of RBO:

- SACAA validates effectiveness, not just presence
- Data consistency and trend demonstration are critical

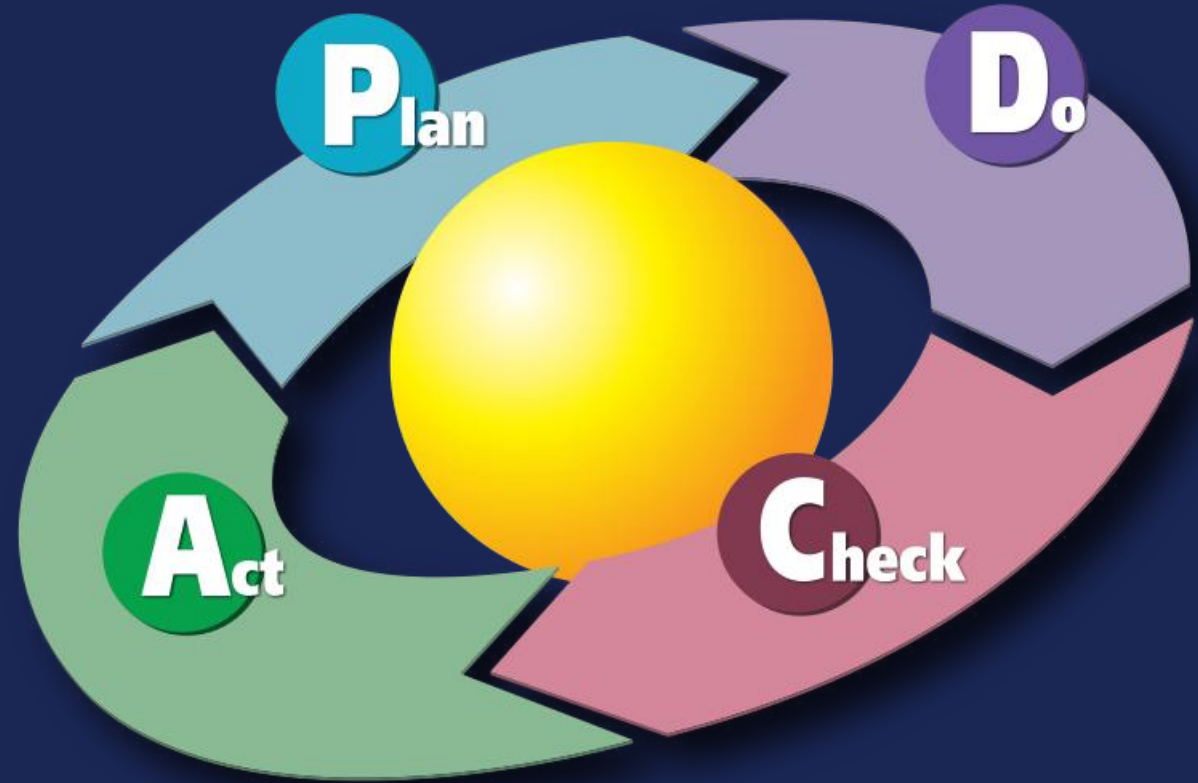


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Keeping SMS Effective Over Time:

To remain effective as risks evolve:

- Regular SMS maturity assessments
- Continuous improvement cycles
- Data quality management
- Training and safety culture reinforcement
- Integration with business decision-making



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Industry Impact & Key Concerns:

Positive Impacts:

- Reduced regulatory burden for mature organisations
- Better safety outcomes
- Focused oversight



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Industry Impact & Key Concerns:

Major Concerns:

- Data capability gaps
- Inconsistent SMS maturity
- Increased accountability
- Change management challenges



Text

SMS maturity is the foundation of successful RBO roll-out

THANK YOU