The Federal Aviation Administration is launching its next evolution oversight program, but the administration has no plans to train those who hold aviation certificates on the new philosophy or concepts.

The Safety Assurance System will replace all of the FAA’s oversight programs for more than 13,000 certificate holders by 2018. The initial deployment, May 2014 through August 2015, affects more than half of those certificate holders. And even though SAS is meant to be an internal system for the FAA, the deployment will impact aviation companies as inspectors change their methods, techniques, and practices.

Certificate holders can help themselves by understanding what the FAA inspectors will accomplish with the change. Further, aviation companies can use the new system to their own benefit.

**HOW CAN CERTIFICATE HOLDERS BENEFIT FROM SAS?**

- New SAS tools capture all design and performance requirements in checklist form, with links to appropriate regulatory and guidance material.
- Certificate holders can access many of the same tools their local FAA inspectors will use during ongoing oversight.
- SAS tools can be extremely useful as internal job aids and checklists.
- SAS tools can be customized and scoped based on a company’s individual configuration and operation.
- SAS concepts allow for a more collaborative working relationship with the local FAA office.

**ARE YOU READY FOR SAS?**

- Do you know when the FAA will begin using SAS in your area?
- Do you know where and how to access the new SAS tools?
- Have you considered performing a gap analysis of your manual system using the new SAS design tools?
- Do you have a plan if your gap analysis reveals discrepancies in your manual?
- Do you have a plan if the FAA reveals discrepancies in your manual?
- Do you have the ability to sustain compliance as other oversight changes occur, which could involve SMS, ISO, DOD, EASA, etc.?

It’s important to recognize that change is coming. Prepare for this change. Take a proactive approach. Don’t wait for the FAA. The more you understand the new oversight system, the better your position when the inspector comes knocking.
ABOUT CAVOK

CAVOK is an aviation services and consulting firm that supports clients worldwide. Our deep expertise and proprietary tools help customers incorporate the latest safety standards, improve process efficiency, and streamline maintenance processes, to reap significant economic benefit.

We develop manual systems and processes that conform to safety management concepts, support air carrier mergers and certifications, and assist with aircraft conformity inspections. The company designs and builds aircraft maintenance inspection programs, and assists carriers with the associated reliability data collection and analysis necessary to maintain and enhance those programs. Clients include scheduled and unscheduled air carriers, maintenance, repair, and overhaul facilities, regulatory bodies, and financiers.

CAVOK subject matter experts have more than 1,300 years of combined airline operations expertise, culled from more than 30 different airlines globally, including military and government agencies. More than 70 percent of employees hold FAA certification and licenses.

Founded in 1996, CAVOK was acquired by Oliver Wyman in 2007 and draws on the consulting firm’s strategic and operational expertise in aviation. By combining CAVOK’s operational knowledge with Oliver Wyman’s management consulting experience in the aviation industry, our clients gain access to unique depth and breadth of experience, tools, and acumen.

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Larry was the FAA executive in charge of creating and deploying SAS. He retired from the FAA in January 2013 after more than 36 years of federal service. His last position was Federal Executive, serving as the division manager of the FAA Flight Standards Central Region in Kansas City, Mo. He helped establish the FAA’s first virtual organization, the Certification Standardization and Evaluation Team; he assisted in the design and development of the Air Transportation Oversight System; and he led the creation of the Surveillance and Evaluation Program. At CAVOK, Larry specializes in FAA oversight systems, surveillance, certification, system safety, and safety management systems.