

Taking Ownership of Risk

Preparation for the next Sector Risk Profile is under way. This one focuses on medium and large aircraft operations and we welcome the involvement of those interested in improving safety in this area.

Two Sector Risk Profiles (SRP) have already been completed:

Part 137 *Agricultural Aircraft Operations*, in 2013, then Part 135 *Air Operations – Helicopters and Small Aeroplanes*, last year.

SRP project manager, Dominik Gibbs, says SRPs are about capturing the knowledge, experience, and perceptions of sector participants, including the CAA. The results are combined with evidential data to help identify and manage safety risks, and then the causes and treatments of the risks.

The current SRP includes medium and large aircraft operations: Part 121 *Air Operations – Large Aeroplanes*; Part 125 *Air Operations – Medium Aeroplanes*; Part 129 *Foreign Air Transport Operator – Certification*; and operations conducted in New Zealand under the Australia New Zealand Aviation agreement.

The CAA's Deputy Director Air Transport and Airworthiness, Mark Hughes, says the Authority has identified seven safety and security focus areas and four of them relate directly to this sector.

"An SRP approach is the next logical step to focus our efforts."

Mark believes there have been some advances in safety as a result of the first two SRPs, and this SRP will build on that previous work.

"The focus of previous SRPs was the identification of safety risks. We're stepping this risk profile up to the next

level. We will work with industry to determine new or enhanced controls for managing those risks identified."

Dominik says there will be a phased approach, starting with the collection of safety data, including surveying participants.

"At the end there will be a treatment implementation plan, and an opportunity for people to take ownership of these risks. This work will help to inform Safety Management Systems (SMS) and assist the CAA in improving the aviation system."

The CAA has begun inviting sector participants to get involved. The first phase will include identifying the hazards and associated risks.

Dominik says an independent risk management facilitator will advise the project and lead workshops early next year, involving industry operators, the CAA, and other stakeholders.

"We prefer this collaborative approach. We want to create an environment where everyone 'in the room' has the opportunity for free and frank discussion, which is usually how you get the best information."

The CAA's Sector Risk Profile Lead, John McKinlay, says developed nations are increasingly going down the path of sector risk profiling.

John, who has been in contact with some of the CAA's international equivalents, believes we can leverage off their work.

"What we are doing aligns very well with the UK CAA's approach to performance based regulation, which focuses on risk management. Like CASA (Australia), we believe working with industry is the way to go. This includes jointly identifying safety priorities, and the best mitigation controls or treatments."

The CAA is putting together draft policy and procedures around sector risk profiling. Stakeholder feedback will help refine it, providing a good model for future SRPs.

"The owner of the profile is essentially the sector being profiled. It's important they take ownership of the risk mitigations – that way the sector has a real opportunity for improving safety," says John.

Air New Zealand's General Manager Flight Operations, Stephen Hunt, says the airline looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders.

"Air New Zealand has been on the risk profiling journey for some years now. Notably, the Queenstown night operations safety case was one of the biggest collaborative industry exercises seen in recent times.

"This demonstrated the advantages of all stakeholders exploring the safety risks together, and collectively identifying how to manage those risks to benefit all aviation participants in the region."

For more information, go to the CAA web site, www.caa.govt.nz, "Aviation Info > Safety Info > Sector Risk Profiles". ■

