



# Security Management System (SeMS)

A guidance note for Accountable Managers



## Purpose

To provide senior personnel with a high level overview of the principles of a Security Management System (SeMS), to outline the role of the Accountable Manager and to illustrate how implementing a SeMS will help maintain the integrity of aviation security within commercial entities responsible for managing their own security risks.

## Background

Over the last few decades, aviation has been an attractive target for terrorists and threats to civil aviation remain dynamic. A successful attack on aviation would not only create a climate of fear amongst passengers, staff and the general public but it would also have a major impact on the carrier or airport concerned, the aviation industry more generally, and the wider economy.

One of the fundamental challenges faced by industry is how to have current and ongoing assurance that the security measures in place maintain the required level of security to mitigate the risk. Individual organisations are best placed to gauge the effectiveness of their own security resilience and cannot rely on regulatory inspections alone to give them assurance of the performance of their security measures.

For security management to be effective, it has to be a continuous cycle which includes a threat and vulnerability assessment, the identification, capture and analysis of risk and the generation and continuous review of risk mitigation plans: risk is a dynamic arena and will require continual review against an ever-changing threat landscape. The SeMS enables an entity to identify and manage security risks in a consistent and proactive way. SeMS is not a mandated process but if you have a SeMS it will meet the internal quality control provisions of articles 12, 13 and 14 of EC 300/2008.

## **Security Management System - SeMS**

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A SeMS is an organised, systematic approach to managing security which embeds security management and security culture into the day to day activities of an organisation.

It provides the necessary organisational structure, accountabilities, policies and procedures to ensure effective oversight. In summary, a SeMS is an assurance system for security.

## **Benefits of developing a SeMS**

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Most organisations already have well established management systems and a SeMS is not about creating something new, but ensuring that what is in place is fit for purpose. Benefits of a SeMS include:

- Providing security assurance to the entity
- Increasing level of oversight by the entity
- Managing costs and improving efficiencies by targeting security measures appropriately and measuring their performance

- Satisfying EU quality assurance obligations under EC 300/2008 and demonstrating that the entity is discharging its accountability and responsibilities for security.
- Embedding a security culture into the entity.
- Creating data which will be of benefit to industry and the CAA in relation to security
- Helping to modernise aviation security in the UK.

## **The Accountable Manager**

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Security is critically important to the success of an entity's business and should be given appropriate commitment and resource. Each entity should have an Accountable Manager who would usually be a senior executive at Board level, with the authority to allocate necessary resources for the protection of the public, staff, assets and the business itself.

In many organisations the Accountable Manager will appoint a manager with security experience to develop, administer and monitor the SeMS. Despite this it is important to note that full responsibility and accountability cannot be delegated and will still rest with the Accountable Manager.

The Accountable Manager should have:

- Full responsibility and accountability for the SeMS
- Responsibility for determining the level of risk that the entity can tolerate
- Corporate authority for ensuring all activities can be financed and adequately staffed
- Final accountability for all security issues
- Responsibility to ensure all staff understand the entity's security policy and to promote an active security culture.

The development of a SeMS will ensure key risks are effectively identified, mitigated and subject to regular review. A SeMS is an evolving process which will help organisations to demonstrate dynamic and effective management and delivery of security.

Further information and support documents regarding SeMS are available on the CAA website: [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)