



DASA SMS-QMS Efficiency Reviews 2025-26

DASA wishes to advise that a 12-month pause on Military Air Operator (MAO) DASR Oversight and Enforcement (O&E) will be implemented from Aug 25, in conjunction with a pause on selected Major DASR change releases over the same period. Major DASR changes affected are those that may add imposts on the regulated aviation community. O&E activities on all other regulated organisations will continue as originally scheduled.

The pauses are intended to provide regulated organisations with additional time to focus on improving their SMS and QMS performance against a backdrop of increasing internal and external Defence pressures and change initiatives.

In lieu of O&E activities at MAOs during 2025-26, DASA will instead be conducting SMS-QMS efficiency reviews, with the aim of:

- assisting MAOs to identify tailored best practice and principle-based SMS and QMS continuous improvements available to meet DASR obligations
- assisting MAOs embed selected options into business-as-usual, to continue to promote enduring continuous improvement and generative safety culture principles
- seeking to understand how DASA can better support MAOs in their SMS and QMS continuous improvement obligations
- seeking to understand SMS and QMS solutions that are already working well across MAOs, such that lessons learned can be shared with others.

The 01/25 *Defence Aviation Safety Board* (Def AA and Environmental Commanders) endorsed the pauses, and the conduct of SMS-QMS efficiency reviews at MAOs, based on the fact that:

- effective safety performance is enabled via robust internal self-correcting mechanisms
- internal self-correcting mechanisms are more effective than external interventions
- those closest to the activity are able to effect the greatest performance improvements
- SMS and QMS are the critical foundations to enduring continuous improvement.

The reviews will consist of coordinated on-site and off-site activities over a period of up to 12 weeks, and include discussion, working groups, and temporary resource supplementation to assist with the embedding of improvements selected. Importantly, DASA will not be issuing regulatory findings during the reviews. Lastly, review schedules will be coordinated with DLCs.

A DASA Q&A Town Hall will be hosted by DAVNOPS the week of 25-29 Aug with details to follow.

The point of contact for all above initiatives is GPCAPT Nicholas Pausina (DAVNOPS-DASA), at 02 5131 8235, or nicholas.pausina@defence.gov.au.

Past Newsbreaks located [DASA web site](#).

DASA Newsbreaks: Unsubscribe - send blank email to [DASA Unsubscribe](#)

DASA Newsbreaks: Subscribe - send blank email to [DASA Subscribe](#)

Note: *DASA Newsbreak content is OFFICIAL and is intended as information only for Defence, contractor personnel, and other interested parties working in areas related to Defence aviation and space safety.*

DASA only retains email addresses on the DASA Subscribe distribution list; this list will not be passed on to third parties.