

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### *DASR SMS Transition – 2026-27*

#### **Topic 1: Updates to the DASR SMS and the DASM**

**Q: When was the DASR SMS Updated and where can I find the previous version?**

**A:** DASA updated the DASR SMS on the DASP Policy and Guidance Portal on 27 February 2026. Readers can obtain a copy of the 'in-effect' version of the DASR SMS by using the link provided in the banner at the top of the DASR SMS regulation [webpage](#).

**Note:** A major amendment to DASR SMS was published on 27 Feb 26. Organisations required to comply with DASR SMS must achieve compliance with the amended regulation no later than 27 Feb 27. DASA will release an Advisory Circular to provide transition information and guidance in due course. The previous text of DASR SMS is available [here](#).

**Q: Did the updated DASR SMS add new requirements for Approved Organisations?**

**A:** No. The updated DASR SMS has not added new requirements for Approved Organisations. However, DASA has consolidated requirements that previously existed in the DASM into the DASR SMS.

**Q: What has changed with the updated DASR SMS?**

**A:** DASA has made significant structural changes to DASR SMS regulations and guidance material including:

1. The relocation and consolidation of Regulation and AMC-like contents from the DASM into the DASP Volume 2 DASR SMS Regulations.
2. The relocation and consolidation of DASR SMS and DASM guidance material into the DASPMAN Volume 3 Chapter 14 - *Safety Management Systems*.
3. Alternative AMC where requirements for ADF and non-ADF organisations differ.
4. Minor changes to the DASR SMS and AMC in order to improve clarity of requirements and expectations (eg the DASR SMS has been re-numbered to enable improved referencing).

**Q: Why was DASR SMS updated?**

**A:** The update addresses gaps identified in previous regulation, consolidates SMS requirements and guidance material, and improves the independence of DFSB's investigative capability by enabling the withdrawal of the DASM.

**Q: What happens to the DASM?**

**A:** The DASM will be formally withdrawn on 28 February 2027. During the transition period, it remains Defence's corporate aviation SMS solution. All DASM information will be transferred to DASPMAN Volumes 2 and 3, the DASA website, and a DFSB manual addressing reporting and investigation requirements (Name TBD). The contents of the DASM are mapped in a live DASM-to-DASPMAN cross-reference matrix on the DASA SMS [webpage](#).

**Q: What content in the DASM will not be transferred to a DASA Product?**

**A:** Prescriptive Command-led contents within the DASM (eg specific risk management processes) will not be transferred to an existing or future DASA product. DASA encourages approved organisations to identify this content using the DASM-to-DASPMAN cross-reference matrix and adapt it into their organisation's existing SMS documentation.

**Q: Does DASA mandate the use of any risk assessment methodology for managing Aviation Safety Risk?**

**A:** DASA does not mandate the use of any specific risk assessment method for managing Aviation Safety risks. DASPMAN Volume 3 Chapter 14 paragraph 14.3.52 provides a list of methods that Approved Organisations may consider using (eg Bowtie, Fault Tree Analysis, Failure Modes and Effects Analysis etc.) but the most appropriate method will always depend on the context and type of risk being assessed.

**Topic 2: DASR SMS Transition**

**Q: Who is affected by the transition?**

**A:** All Approved Organisations who have a requirement within their relevant DASR Part to comply with DASR SMS requirements.

**Q: When must organisations comply with the updated DASR SMS?**

**A:** Organisations must have transitioned to the updated DASR SMS regulations by 27 February 2027 unless DASA agrees to an extension.

**Q: What is required of subordinate organisations within an Approved Organisation (eg Units and Wings under a Force Element Group (FEG)) to assist with the transition?**

**A:** DASA expects Accountable Managers (AM) to attest that they are ready to comply with the DASR SMS. It is up to the AM to determine how the Approved Organisation will manage updates and achieve compliance within its own structure. If in doubt, Key Safety Personnel within subordinate organisations should seek guidance from safety teams positioned higher in their organisation structure to understand what is required of them.

**Q: What is required of Approved Organisations in order to transition to the updated DASR SMS?**

**A:** Approved Organisations must update their SMS documentation and processes to align with the updated SMS requirements. DASA expects this will have the greatest impact on organisations who previously relied on references to the DASM in order to demonstrate compliance. Organisations must replace these references by updating their internal SMS documentation. DASA recommends that organisations use the PSOE Evaluation Tool available on the DASA SMS [webpage](#) to guide their efforts prior to seeking DASA's approval to transition.

**Q: How will Approved Organisations seek DASA approval of their transition to the updated DASR SMS?**

**A - General:** Approved Organisations must submit evidence to DASA demonstrating that their SMS complies with the updated DASR SMS. This submission must include an attestation from the Accountable Manager, an updated compliance statement or exposition, and supporting SMS documentation that clearly shows how the organisation meets the updated requirements. DASA

is still developing the details of the process and encourages Organisations to engage with DASA early through their Desk Officers to obtain guidance on their transition requirements. DASA will update this FAQ and SMS Town Halls to provide additional guidance on this process as it is developed and tested.

**A - DASR 21:**

1. Organisations approved under DASR 21 will need to review their extant SMS documentation for compliance with the new SMS requirements.
2. If changes are required, these should be assessed to determine if they represent a significant change to their approved system (see **Table 1**).
3. Where the change is significant to the approved system, submit the appropriate DASR Form (see **Table 1**) with supporting documentation to DASA for review prior to implementation.
4. Where the change is not significant, update the handbook/exposition and associated procedures (see **Table 1**) as per extant mechanisms and supply copies to DASA.

***Table 1: DASR 21 - SMS-related Systems and Notification Forms***

Organisation Type	SMS link to system	Significant change to system	DASR Form to notify significant change	Update to handbook / exposition for other changes
Military Design Organisation Approval (MDOA) – Subpart J	SMS is a requirement of the DAS under 21.A.239	design assurance system (DAS) IAW 21.A.247	DASR Form 82 (AMC 21.A.253)	21.A.243(c)
Military Production Organisation Approval (MPOA) – Subpart G	SMS is a requirement of the quality system under 21.A.139	production organisation or quality system IAW 21.A.147	DASR Form 51 (AMC 21.A.153)	21.A.143(b)
Military Type Certificate Holder Organisations (MTCHO) – Subpart C	SMS is a requirement of the TCAS under 21.A.76	type continued airworthiness system (TCAS) IAW 21.A.79	DASR Form 80C (GM 21.A.79)	21.A.77

**Q: How will DASA assess compliance for the transition?**

**A:** DASA will undertake desktop evaluations of compliance submissions, focusing on the “Present” and “Suitable” elements of the PSOE methodology before granting transition approval.

**Q: Will DASA continue to issue findings on SMS requirements during transition?**

**A:** DASA has paused the issue of findings against the ‘in-effect’ DASR SMS unless a serious risk to safety is identified. The focus of this period is to support organisations with the transition.

**Q: What education and training will DASA provide to support the transition?**

**A:** DASA will provide monthly SMS Town Halls (notification via the DASA Newsbreak) and continue to conduct SMS Practitioner courses during the 2026-27 period. In addition to this, MAO SMS/QMS reviews will provide MAOs with additional workshops, education and training to facilitate their transition. Approved Organisations who require additional or contextualised guidance for their transition are encouraged to contact their DASA Desk Officer or submit general enquiries to the DASA SMS Team by emailing [dasa.asms@defence.gov.au](mailto:dasa.asms@defence.gov.au).

**Q: What will occur after transition is complete?**

**A:** From 28 February 2027, DASA will resume normal DASR SMS oversight and evaluation activities in line with DCA, DIA and DAVNOPS audit schedules for all Approved Organisations without an agreed extension from DASA.

**Q: What tools are available to help organisations transition?**

**A:** A live DASM-to-DASPMAN cross-reference matrix is available, and updated PSOE Evaluation Tool will help organisations validate compliance before submitting evidence to DASA.

**Topic 3: Seeking guidance and providing feedback**

**Q: Who can we contact for more information?**

**A:** DASA will update the DASA SMS [webpage](#) regularly with transition-related material and guidance. If the webpage does not answer your questions, or your questions are not suitable for monthly SMS Town Halls, you can contact the DASA SMS Team directly by emailing [dasa.asms@defence.gov.au](mailto:dasa.asms@defence.gov.au).

**Q: Where and how do I submit improvements for the DASR SMS and guidance material?**

**A:** The DASR SMS went through a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) process in 2025 prior to being published. If you have suggestions or improvements to be included in future updates, please submit a DASR Form 111 – *DASR Change Proposal*.