



Australian Government
Department of Defence



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

AC 003/2022 v1.0

CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF DEFENCE AVIATION SAFETY POLICY

[Click here to view a video providing an overview of the changes described in this AC](#)

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V1.0 – August 2022

An Advisory Circular is issued by the Authority to promulgate important information to the Defence Aviation community, but does not mandate any action. This includes informing the community on aviation safety / airworthiness matters, information that enhances compliance understanding for existing regulation, or policy guidance for aviation issues not yet regulated that requires further understanding.

Audience

This Advisory Circular (AC) is relevant to all members of the Defence aviation community.

Purpose

The purpose of this AC is to inform the Defence aviation community of changes to the structure of Defence aviation safety policy, inclusive of the introduction of the Defence Aviation Safety Program Manual.

Further information

For further information on this AC, contact the DASA Headquarters policy team at DASA.DASR@defence.gov.au.

Status

This AC will remain current until cancelled by DASA.

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Details
1.0	11 Aug 2022	AIRCDRE J Medved DG DASA	Initial release

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1 Reference material

1.1 Acronyms

The acronyms and abbreviations used in this AC are listed in the table below.

Acronym	Description
AMC	Acceptable Means of Compliance
BR	Basic Regulation
DASA	Defence Aviation Safety Authority
DASAMAN	Defence Aviation Safety Assurance Manual
DASF	Defence Aviation Safety Framework
DASP	Defence Aviation Safety Program
DASR	Defence Aviation Safety Regulation
EMAR	European Military Airworthiness Requirements
EU	European Union
GM	Guidance Material
GR	General Requirements
IR	Implementing Regulation
OIP	Orders, Instructions and Publications
PGP	Policy and Guidance Portal

1.2 References

- 1.2.1 [Joint Directive 21/2021 – The Defence Aviation Safety Framework](#)
- 1.2.2 [Regulation \(EC\) No 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency](#)

2 Introduction

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 This AC describes changes to the hierarchy of Defence Aviation Safety policy, driven by an acknowledgement that it was no longer fit for purpose, and could not readily support future amendment. The changes will be made in two phases and will affect several extant policy documents, including:
- the Defence Aviation Safety Regulation (DASR), including both Basic Regulation (BR) and Implementing Regulation (IR)
 - the Defence Aviation Safety Assurance Manual (DASAMAN).
- 2.1.2 The first phase will take effect on 01 September 2022, at which time:
- the DASR BR will be withdrawn
 - the first two volumes of the new Defence Aviation Safety Program (DASP) Manual will be published:
 - Volume 1 *Requirements for the DASP*
 - Volume 2 *Defence Aviation Safety Regulation*.
- 2.1.3 The second phase will take effect in 2023, at which time:
- DASP Manual Volume 3 *DASP Guidance* will be published
 - the DASAMAN will be withdrawn.

2.2 Purpose of changes

- 2.2.1 The purpose of the changes described in this AC is to promote clarity for those who are responsible for the management and oversight of Defence Aviation Safety. In particular, the changes will:
- clearly separate safety requirements from guidance
 - better identify the primary audience of each document
 - improve the suitability of policy structure and style for the Defence context.

2.3 Key points

- 2.3.1 The policy changes described in this AC do not introduce any new requirements or supporting information for the management of Aviation Safety by commanders and managers.

- 2.3.2 Though the DASR Basic Regulation is being withdrawn, BR content regarding Flexibility Provisions and Occurrence Reporting is being retained in the form of new DASR General Requirements (GR). The only transition actions resulting from the changes described in this AC are to update any references to this BR content.
- 2.3.3 In light of the two points above, the only consultation of the changes described in this AC has been through the Defence Aviation Safety Board. As future amendments to introduce new policy and supporting information for the management of Aviation Safety are developed, DASA will consult the community through established means such as Notices of Proposed Amendment.

2.4 Current and future states

- 2.4.1 Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate the current and future states of the hierarchy of Defence aviation safety policy. The future state will be introduced in two phases as described at paragraphs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

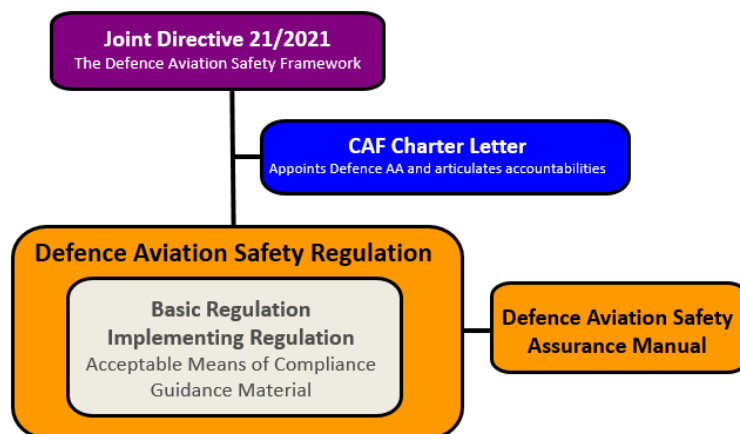


Figure 1 - Current state as at August 2022

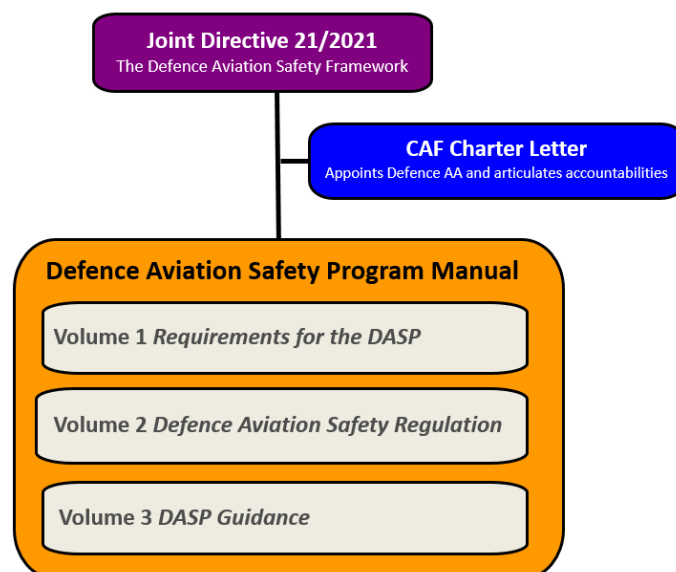


Figure 2 - Future state

3 Description of Policy Changes

3.1 Introduction of the DASP Manual

3.1.1 The DASP is the ongoing program of activities carried out in fulfilment of the functions and accountabilities established by the Defence Aviation Safety Framework per Reference 1.2.1, which includes:

- the responsibility of commanders and managers to ensure the safety of Defence Aviation
- independent safety assurance applied by DASA
- independent accident and incident investigations performed by DASA in order to prevent recurrence and improve safety performance
- independent reviews of Aviation Safety coordinated by DASA on behalf of the Defence Aviation Authority (Defence AA).

3.1.2 The DASP Manual will be issued by the Defence AA to establish policy and guidance for the implementation of the DASP. It will be published in three volumes.

3.1.3 **Volume 1 *Requirements for the DASP***

3.1.3.1 Volume 1 will be issued with effect 01 September 2022. It expands on Reference 1.2.1 to establish requirements for the implementation and administration of the DASP; in particular:

- legal context and governance arrangements
- independent safety assurance
- the Defence Aviation Safety Regulation
- the independent investigation of accidents and incidents
- independent reviews of Aviation Safety.

3.1.3.2 Volume 1 is intended to be understood by a broad audience; however, the requirements it sets out are primarily directed at DASA. Some material within Volume 1 fulfils functions previously met by DASR BR clauses applicable to DASA and the administration of the DASP.

3.1.4 **Volume 2 *Defence Aviation Safety Regulation***

3.1.4.1 Volume 2 will be issued with effect 01 September 2022. It establishes all requirements and provisions for the management of Aviation Safety by commanders and managers. It is comprised of:

- General Requirements, which define the scope and applicability of the DASR as well as establish requirements and provisions applicable to a significant proportion of regulated entities
- the extant DASR IR, to be referred to as DASR parts, including corresponding Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM).

3.1.4.2 The DASR BR applicable to commanders and managers were used as the basis for corresponding GR within Volume 2. Some BR content was transferred to GR without appreciable change as described at paragraph 3.3.3 below.

3.1.4.3 Though the DASR will now sit within the DASP Manual structure, they should still be referred to as simply 'the DASR'. Similarly, references to 'the DASR' should now be taken to mean the entirety of DASP Manual Volume 2, inclusive of the GR and DASR parts.

3.1.5 **Volume 3 *DASP Guidance***

3.1.5.1 Volume 3 is expected to be published in 2023. Its purpose is to address a gap in the current suite of supporting information by providing a single reference document that:

- provides an overview of the DASP and how its various elements collectively achieve the required safety objectives
- contains enduring supporting information to promote understanding of, and compliance with, requirements or provisions established through Volumes 1 and 2.

3.1.5.2 The consolidation of enduring supporting information within a single document structure will promote content discoverability as well as cross-referencing between related topics. Volume 3 will enable the withdrawal of multiple extant Advisory Circulars and will also absorb relevant content from the DASAMAN. It will not replace DASR AMC and GM, which will continue to be published alongside relevant DASR clauses.

3.2 **Withdrawal of Defence AA delegation letters**

3.2.1 The Defence AA has issued Charter letters delegating specific safety assurance functions to the Deputy Chief of Air Force, DG DASA and two DASA Directors. The purpose of these letters will now be addressed through revised delegations in DASP Manual Volume 1 and they will be withdrawn on 01 September 2022.

3.3 Withdrawal of the DASR Basic Regulation

- 3.3.1 The DASR BR will be withdrawn with effect 01 September 2022. The BR is based closely on the 2008 European Union legislation that established the European Aviation Safety Agency and a common aviation regulation framework across Europe (Reference 1.2.2). While the BR provided a sound basis to support the transition to a single Safety Authority and the introduction of the DASR, the maturity of these constructs is now such that Defence is in a position to adopt a policy style and structure better suited to the Defence context.
- 3.3.2 The functions of the BR clauses applicable to DASA and the administration of the DASP have been transferred to Volume 1 of the DASP Manual, while the functions of clauses applicable to commanders and managers have been transferred to Volume 2 in the form of GR.
- 3.3.3 In most instances, BR functions have been re-structured and re-worded to clarify the scope and applicability of requirements as well as to better suit the DASP Manual format and Defence context. However, BR content of particular relevance to the regulated community has been transferred without appreciable change to wording; specifically:
- a. **BR.80 Flexibility Provisions.** All paragraphs have been transferred to GR.80 *Flexibility Provisions*.
 - b. **BR Appendix 1 Occurrence Reporting.** The appendix setting out Occurrence Reporting requirements was transferred as AMC to GR.40 *Occurrence Reporting*.

3.4 Withdrawal of the DASAMAN

- 3.4.1 The Defence Aviation Safety Assurance Manual will be withdrawn in 2023 after the publication of DASP Manual Volume 3 and updates to internal DASA Orders, Instructions and Publications (OIP). At the time of its introduction, the key objectives of the DASAMAN were to:
- articulate the activities to be undertaken by DASA to assure the effective management of aviation safety within Defence
 - articulate authoritative aviation safety policy objectives and requirements
 - provide supporting detail and guidance on the Defence Aviation Safety Framework
 - amplify and contextualise requirements detailed in the DASR.
- 3.4.2 As the ecosystem of DASP policy and guidance documents has matured, it has been identified that the objectives of the DASAMAN would be better met

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through separate documents. Accordingly, DASAMAN content will be transferred to DASP Manual Volume 3 and DASA OIP as appropriate.

3.5 Summary

3.5.1 Figure 3 below provides an overview of the changes to the structure of Defence Aviation Safety policy and guidance.

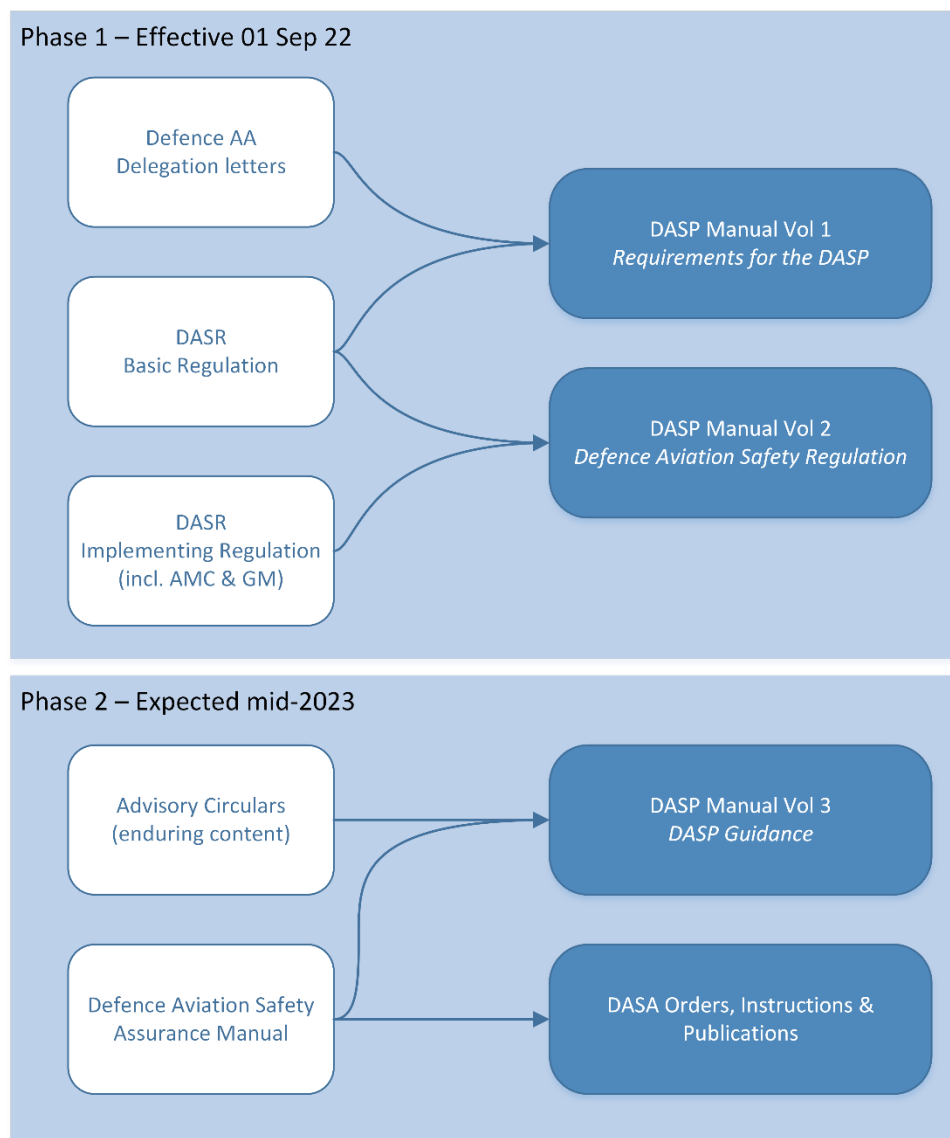


Figure 3 - Overview of changes to structure

4 Transition arrangements

4.1 Transition period

- 4.1.1 The transfer of policy to the DASP Manual structure does not place any new obligations on commanders and managers for the management of Aviation Safety.
- 4.1.2 The only actions that may be required of the community in order to address the changes described in this AC are minor amendments to publications to replace any references to the BR. In particular, any reference to the content that was transferred from BR to GR, as identified at paragraph 3.3.3 above, should be replaced with a reference to the corresponding GR.
- 4.1.3 This transfer of content from BR to GR does not invalidate any extant:
- DASA publications, authorisations (organisation approvals etc) or correspondence
 - documents supporting compliance with DASR (organisation expositions etc).
- 4.1.4 Instead, from 01 September 2022, any reference to the BR content identified at paragraph 3.3.3 should be interpreted as a reference to the corresponding DASR GR content.
- 4.1.5 This provision will be in effect until 01 September 2023, by which time any references to BR within documentation supporting DASR compliance should be replaced with references to the corresponding GR.

4.2 Precedence of content

- 4.2.1 In the event that the changes described in this AC result in conflict between new policy or guidance and older material that remains extant, the newer material will take precedence. For example, the DASP Manual Volume 1 chapter regarding Independent Review of Aviation Safety will take precedence over the DASAMAN chapter on Independent Boards of Review until the latter is withdrawn. If in doubt, please contact DASA.

5 Other relevant activities

5.1 Occurrence Reporting remediation project

- 5.1.1 DASA has established an internal project to review and improve DASR and supporting information regarding Occurrence Reporting. The outcomes of this project have not yet been determined and therefore existing DASR and supporting information have been transferred to the DASP Manual without appreciable change; however, the community can expect updates to applicable Occurrence Reporting material in future updates. This includes any future refinements to AMC to GR.40 *Occurrence Reporting*.

5.2 New Policy and Guidance Portal

- 5.2.1 From 01 September 2022, a new DASP Policy and Guidance Portal (PGP) will replace the extant DASR web site. As it matures, the PGP will become the single source for all DASP policy and guidance, including:
- the DASP Manual, including DASR, AMC and GM
 - the Airworthiness Design Requirements Manual
 - Advisory Circulars
 - Factsheets
 - internal DASA OIP.
- 5.2.2 A key objective of the PGP is to increase the discoverability of policy and guidance. This will be met in part by the ability to search all of the above documents simultaneously.
- 5.2.3 The PGP will be accessible from a 'Policy and Guidance' menu item on the DASA web site at <https://defence.gov.au/DASP>.
- 5.2.4 An ongoing project to update the Defence web site will likely result in changes to the web address of specific content on the DASA web site, including PGP content. Accordingly, users are advised not to embed links to specific content (eg the PGP index page or DASR parts) within documents until further notice. Web links should instead point to the DASA web site.

5.3 Withdrawal of DASR web site

- 5.3.1 With the transition to the DASP Manual construct on 01 September 2022, extant web links to the DASR will redirect to the index of DASP Manual Volume 2 *Defence Aviation Safety Regulation*. This redirection will be in place until end February 23 for web links of the following format and may not work in all browsers:

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- <https://defence.gov.au/DASP/Docs/Manuals/8000-011/DASRWeb/index.htm>
- <https://defence.gov.au/DASP/Docs/Manuals/DefenceAviationSafetyRegulation/DASRWeb/index.htm>.

5.3.2 Past versions of the DASR will continue to be accessible from the DASA web site.