

The Association supports a mandatory risk management approach to aviation safety and notes that most operators have adopted such practices over time driven in part by the Statutory requirements of many pieces of New Zealand statute and or at the instance of their insurance company that they demonstrate they are adequately managing risk.

We note that the Civil Aviation Act 1990 already makes reference to the need for a management system and the step to a system which links good practice with good processes is something all certificated operators have had to adopt since the introduction of the key Rules suite in the early mid 1990's. In our view the extension of QMS to SMS is a small but significant step for this group of operators. For non certificated operators we acknowledge the step may be much more significant however there are many inexpensive "tool kits" available such as our own AIRCARE™ programme.

Operators who carry passengers are required in terms of the Health and Safety in Employment Act to have a management system which already embodies risk management concepts. Effectively all the risk management approach to regulating safety now being introduced is more heavily prescribing in an aviation context what operators have been required under the HSE Act 1992 to do since the inception of that Act.

Voluntary implementation would normally be the Association's preferred mechanism for uptake however this is only possible where there is a responsible industry prepared to accept the challenge. Our AIRCARE™ initiative has shown that without economic incentives, in an industry so heavily stooped in heavy handed regulatory intervention that it takes time for operators to accept alternative regulatory mechanisms and a number reject "voluntary compliance" altogether. Others reject voluntary compliance because they consider the Regulator is the only party capable of enforcing change. Sadly the reality is that many in industry feel more comfortable with mandatory than voluntary compliance even though it is our experience via the AIRCARE™ programme that voluntary compliance brings about the most significant cultural shifts and ownership of the safety agenda.

Should you wish to access any of our performance data around the AIRCARE™ programme please do not hesitate to contact us.