

The Evolving Role of the Regulator:

Considerations for Improving Safety & Service

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Today's Aviation Regulatory Environment: “ABC” Challenges

- Aviation is changing
 - Recognize shifts in airman experience, aircraft, avionics, airspace
 - Hire ASIs with the right skills, experience; train in accordance with evolving regulatory posture
- Budgets are shrinking
 - Focus on areas of real risk
 - Work smarter – make appropriate use of resources
- Congress is engaged
 - Build ASI “situational awareness” of working environment
 - Examples: HR 5900; Reauthorization; Pilot’s Bill of Rights

Government's Evolving Role: Safety Management Systems

- More efficient
 - Early recognition and mitigation of safety issues
- More effective
 - Refocused enforcement program can enhance SMS effectiveness
- More capable
 - SMS plus greater use of designees is a force multiplier



Government's Evolving Role: Use of Designees

- Direct inspection vs. designees
 - Cannot “inspect safety into the system”
- Shift to training, managing, overseeing those who act for FAA
- Effective processes and tools for designees – but also for FAA ASIs.
- Still ensure that ASIs “touch metal”



Government's Evolving Role: Enforcement Posture

- Now refocusing ASI (and manager) approach to enforcement – “just culture”
- There is an important distinction between an *unintentional infraction* and a *willful violation*.
- The key question is what best serves and achieves our safety assurance mission.



Government's Evolving Role: Consistency & Standardization

- Lack of standardization is one of industry's most persistent complaints against the FAA.
- Section 313 of the FAA Reauthorization bill required the Administrator to establish an advisory panel to address this subject.
- A key potential action - review FAA guidance to verify that it is consistent with the regulation it is intended to support.

Questions

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