



RASG-MID Steering Committee (RSC/7)

United Arab Emirates State Safety Program (SSP)

Demonstrating a road map to an effective State Safety Management System

Cairo, Egypt
3rd to the 5th of March, 2020



State Safety Program (SSP)

- The UAE State Safety Program
- SMS Regulatory Framework – Regulatory Requirements
- Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program



The UAE State Safety Program

The rapid growth of aviation requires the adoption of modern safety system that is effective, efficient and adaptive, to assure a consistent growth with the evolving aviation business and operating model.

This UAE State Safety Programme sets the strategy of developing aviation safety management functions in the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE SSP outlines the principles and safety objectives, roles, responsibilities, and the necessary processes to effectively implement this strategy.

The UAE approach is consistent with ICAO framework for safety management and the objectives set in the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).



The UAE State Safety Program

The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), which is mandated by the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the aviation regulatory and oversight functions, is committed to working closely with the stakeholders to develop, effectively implement, and continuously improve the state-level safety management system under the provisions of well-defined and governed State Safety Programme.

The GCAA utmost purpose is ascertain robust safeguard for the well-being of the aviation community and the public.



The UAE State Safety Program

As the UAE is a signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), it has established a robust and progressive regulatory and safety oversight system that conforms with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements.

Through the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA), GCAA proactively seek to address gaps in the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and strengthen our regulatory safety oversight to mitigate new and emerging safety risks.



The UAE State Safety Program

In 2019 as another initiative in support of the UAE SSP, the **UAE SSP COORDINATION GROUP (SSPCG)** was established under the instruction and guidance of the Director General GCAA.

The group is chaired by the Director of Policy, Regulation and Planning, and comprises representatives from relevant Sectors and Departments. The SSPCG oversees the development and implementation of the SSP and reviews the level of safety performance and policies and practices related to SSP.



The UAE State Safety Program

The **SSPCG** has the following roles:

- i) Monitoring the development and updating of the risk register and identifying sources of data related to the register;
- j) Monitoring risk assessments and prioritisation;
- k) Identifying the training needs of the employees of the operational sector to carry out the safety management duties entrusted to them as well as the training needs of stakeholders from the senior management;
- l) Following up on the audit results of safety management systems of service providers and following up the implementation of risk-based oversight;
- m) Developing and updating the State Safety Programme Document;



The UAE State Safety Program

The **SSPCG** has the following roles:

- n) Proposing amendments to laws in the interest of safety management;
- o) Reviewing and updating of safety management system regulations;
- p) Identifying and implementing safety promotion programmes and supervise safety information sharing programmes;
- q) Coordinating with the Air Accident Investigation Sector regarding recommendations, their follow-up, training needs related to safety management and regulations and procedures that require coordination;
- r) Coordinating with the Aviation Security Sector regarding dangerous goods, training needs related to safety management and regulations and procedures that require coordination;
- s) Carrying out any other tasks related to the State Safety Programme; and
- t) Developing procedures and principles to implement the mentioned tasks.



Regulatory Requirements

Annex 19

1.1 Management commitment

1.1.2 Taking due account of its safety policy, the service provider shall define safety objectives. The safety objectives

shall:

b) reflect the service provider's commitment to maintain or continuously improve the overall **effectiveness** of the SMS;

1.2 Safety accountability and responsibilities

The service provider shall:

a) identify the accountable executive who, irrespective of other functions, is **accountable on behalf of the organization for the implementation and maintenance of an effective SMS**;



Regulatory Requirements

Annex 19

3.1 Safety performance monitoring and measurement

3.1.1 The service provider shall develop and maintain the means to verify the safety performance of the organization and to **validate the effectiveness of safety risk controls**.

3.3 Continuous improvement of the SMS

The service provider shall monitor and assess its SMS processes to maintain or continuously improve the overall **effectiveness** of the SMS.



Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)



Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)

ICAO conducts *audits, validation activities* and other *continuous monitoring* activities to *determine the safety oversight and investigation capabilities of States*, by:

- Assessing State's **effective implementation of the 8 critical elements** (CEs) in 8 audit areas, GEN (SSP general aspects), SDA (safety data analysis), PEL, OPS, AIR (AMO aspects only), ANS (ATS aspects only), AGA, and AIG by using a set of “Protocol Questions” (PQs) for each audit area; and
- Verifying the status of States' implementation of ICAO SARPs, procedures and associated guidance material.

In addition, as of 2015, ICAO has started, under the USOAP CMA, to assess States' progress in implementing SSP.



Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)

In 2015 the UAE accomplished an enormous and unprecedented achievement by ranking highest in the world in compliance with international aviation safety standards after intensive audit program through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program.

The UAE scored a success rate of 98.86%, which is the highest rate in history given by ICAO.

The United Arab Emirates high level of achievement and continual improvement has been upheld with the latest USOAP assessment having been carried out in December 2019. The assessment areas targeted were: GEN, SDA, OPS, AIR & AIG.



Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)

Mr. Ismaeil Al Blooshi, GCAA Assistant Director General of Aviation Safety Affairs, said: "For the UAE to score the highest in the world is a testimony our clear commitment to continue our strive in supporting and enhancing our aviation safety services.

The aviation safety affairs sector has worked tirelessly to profoundly implement a culture of safety locally and regionally."

He added: "The GCAA was very well prepared for the audit program with an integrated two-year-activity work plan from which designated task forces have been established to execute set goals. The set goals are in compliance with the international safety standards."



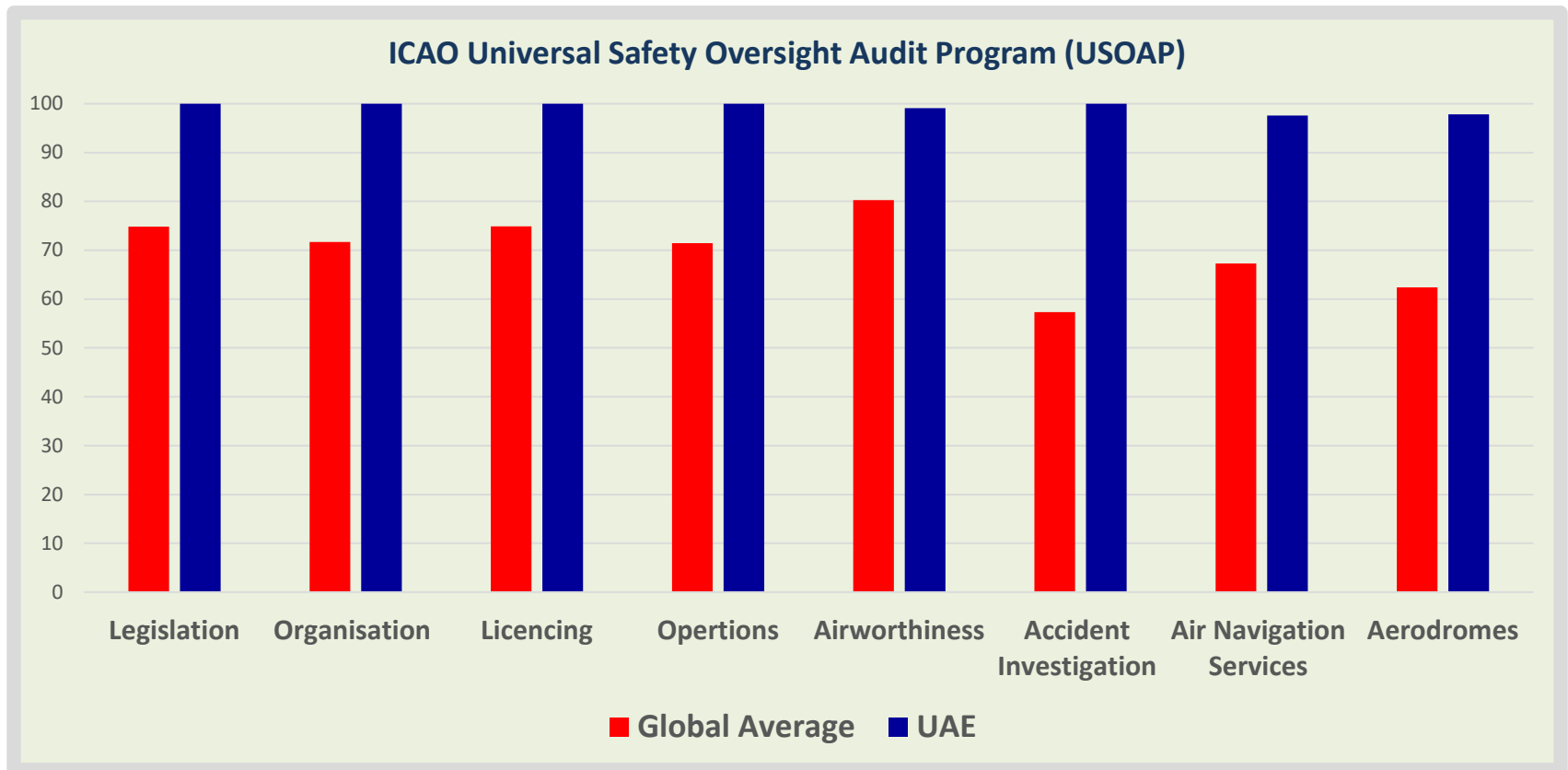
Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)

"It is an honor to obtain such an assessment result by the ICAO and to accomplish the best result worldwide. It could not have been done without the clear vision supported by a strong will to excel and progress.

He added: "Over the last five years, GCAA has strived to develop and implement superb aviation infrastructure consisting of modern regulation framework; state-of-the-art facilities and innovative technology; along with efficient manpower capacity transforming strategies and plans into tangible reality.

Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program



(Updated 2nd of March, 2020)



Benchmarking the UAE SMS Effectiveness Program

ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)

"We share the fruit of the progress with the GCC countries and the Arab countries via ACAC [Arab Civil Aviation Commission] as well as with the region via the ICAO regional office in Cairo, Egypt. We can only thank the GCAA Aviation Safety Team who did their utmost to ensure this achievement for the country.

The GCAA vision, "A Leading, Safe, Secure and Sustainable Civil Aviation System", has contributed highly in encouraging the aviation community and has guaranteed GCAA's top-ranking." He continued: "This ranking is another factor adding to the competitiveness amongst other local aviation industries in the regional market but also internationally. We anticipate the ranking will also enhance the opportunities for local carriers and other related services in the country in the coming years.

