ANG Safety

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AIR NIUGINI SAFETY SYSTEMS OFFICE

ANG HAUS, LEVEL 4,
JACKSONS PARADE, 7 MILE
NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTIRICT

PHONE: 327 3740

EMAIL: safetyoffice@airniugini.com.pg

SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT (SRM)

What is Safety Risk Management (SRM)?

It should come as no surprise that one of the most crucial elements of a safety management system (SMS) is safety risk management (SRM). SRM is a process by which an organization identifies hazards, assesses the risks associated with those hazards, and then mitigates those risks so that they are as low as reasonably practicable. Mitigation can range from eliminating the hazard (and its associated risks) in its entirety to accepting the hazard and putting in place controls to minimize the risks associated with it.

Objectives of Safety Risk Management

It is the responsibility of the airline to ensure that risks surrounding their operations are controlled.

Safety Risk Management activities include the following:

Hazard Identification - Identification of undesired or adverse events that can lead to the occurrence of a hazard and the analysis of mechanisms by which these events may occur and cause harm. Both reactive and proactive methods and techniques should be used for hazard identification.

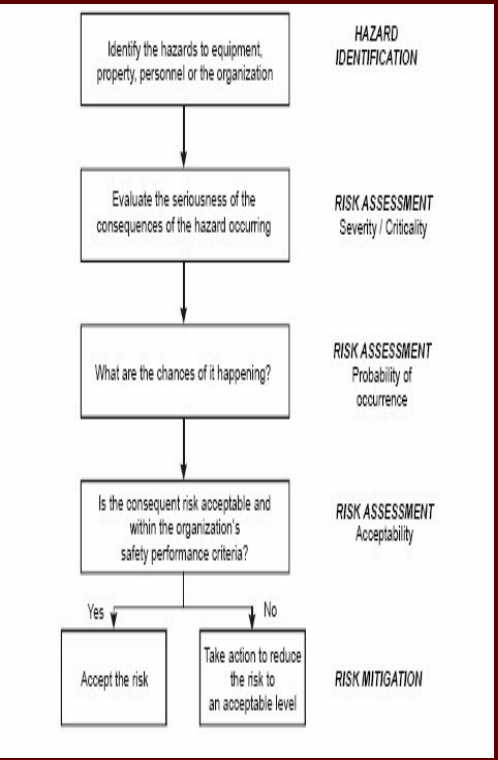
Risk Assessment (likelihood and severity of risk scenarios) - Identified hazards are assessed in terms of criticality of their harmful effect and ranked in order of their risk-bearing potential. They are assessed often by experienced personnel, or by utilising more formal techniques and through analytical expertise. The severity of consequences and the likelihood (frequency) of occurrence of hazards are determined. If the risk is considered acceptable, operation continues without any intervention. If it is not acceptable, the risk mitigation process is engaged.

Risk Mitigation - If the risk is considered to be unacceptable, then control measures are taken to fortify and increase the level of defences against that risk or to avoid or remove the risk, if this is economically feasible.

Implementation and documentation of control measures.

Understanding the related systems are critical in performing activities related to safety risk management. This is not an area to be managed by simply the safety team, but by subject matter experts, namely the department heads who assume responsibility for these systems. A "system description" becomes an invaluable starting point for starting the hazard identification process.

The flow chart below depicting the Risk Management Process



The risk management concept is equally important in all aviation sectors and should be implemented in a consistent manner by airline operators, air navigation service providers, certified aerodrome operators, maintenance organisations and training organisations. Its strategies include identifying the risk, assessing the risk, avoiding or reducing the risk and accepting certain risks.

Sources:

- ASMS-PRO
- SKYbrary
- Flight Safety Forum