Security Management Systems (SeMS)
A guidance note for Accountable Mangers

Purpose

To provide senior personnel with a high level overview of the principles of a Security Management System (SeMS), to outline the role of the Accountable Manager and to illustrate how implementing a SeMS will help maintain the integrity of aviation security within entities responsible for managing their own security risks.

Background

Over the last few decades, aviation has been an attractive target for terrorists and threats to civil aviation remain dynamic. A successful attack on aviation would not only create a climate of fear amongst passengers, staff and the general public but it would also have a major impact on the air carrier, airport, the aviation industry more generally, and the wider economy.

One of the fundamental challenges faced by industry is how to have current and ongoing assurance that the security measures in place maintain the required level of security to mitigate

the risk. Individual organisations are best placed to gauge the effectiveness of their own security resilience and cannot rely on regulatory inspections alone to give them assurance of the performance of their security measures.

For security management to be effective, it has to be a continuous cycle which includes a threat and vulnerability assessment, the identification, capture and analysis of risk and the generation and continuous review of risk mitigation plans: risk is a dynamic arena and will require continual review against an ever-changing threat landscape. The SeMS enables an entity to identify and manage security risks in a consistent and proactive way.

Security Management System - SeMS

A SeMS is an organised, systematic approach to managing security which embeds security management and security culture into the day to day activities of an organisation.

It provides the necessary organisational structure, accountabilities, policies and procedures to ensure effective oversight. In summary, a SeMS is an assurance system for security.

Benefits of developing a SeMS

Most organisations already have well established management systems and a SeMS is not about creating something new, but ensuring that what is in place is fit for purpose. Benefits of a SeMS include:

- Providing security assurance to the entity.
- Increasing level of oversight by the entity.
- Managing costs and improving efficiencies by targeting security measures appropriately and measuring their performance.
- Satisfying UK quality assurance obligations under our baseline regulatory requirements and demonstrating that the entity is discharging its accountability and responsibilities for security.
- Embedding a positive security culture into the organisation.

- Obtaining data which will be of benefit to industry and the CAA in relation to security.
- Helping to modernise aviation security in the UK.

The Accountable Manager

Security is critically important to the success of an entity's business and should be given appropriate commitment and resource. Each entity should have an Accountable Manager who is a senior executive with access to the board in order to influence decision making. They should hold the authority to allocate necessary resources for the protection of the public, staff, assets and the business itself.

In many organisations the Accountable Manager will appoint a manager with security experience to develop, administer and monitor the SeMS. Despite this it is important to note that full accountability cannot be delegated and will still rest with the Accountable Manager. The Accountable Manager should have authority and accountability within the organisation for:

- The delivery of effective aviation security across their UK operation, including embedding of a positive security culture.
- Accountability for the SeMS, which will include oversight and the effective management of aviation security risks.
- Responsibility for determining the level of risk that the entity can tolerate.
- Corporate authority and/or influence in ensuring all activities can be financed and adequately staffed.

The development of a SeMS will ensure key risks are effectively mitigated and subject to regular review. An effective SeMS will continuously evolve which will assist organisations to demonstrate dynamic and effective management and robust delivery of security.

Further information and support documents regarding SeMS are available on the CAA website: **www.caa.co.uk/SeMS**