

Safety in New Zealand's aviation system to be audited this year: supporting information

Media release: <https://www.aviation.govt.nz/about-us/media-releases/show/ICAO-safety-audit>

CAA website: [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\) | aviation.govt.nz](https://www.aviation.govt.nz)

About ICAO

- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations and was created with the signing in Chicago, on 7 December 1944, of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
- ICAO is the permanent body charged with the administration of the principles laid out in the Chicago Convention and sets the standards for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection.

Safety audit details

- The safety audit will explore New Zealand's implementation of the eight Critical Elements (CE) for an effective aviation safety oversight system, as defined by ICAO, as well as run beta tests of our State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management Systems (SMS).
- The CEs are:
 - CE-1 primary aviation legislation
 - CE-2 specific operating regulations
 - CE-3 state system and functions
 - CE-4 qualified technical personnel
 - CE-5 technical guidance, tools & provision of safety-critical information
 - CE-6 licensing, certification, authorisation & approval obligations
 - CE-7 surveillance obligations
 - CE-8 resolution of safety issues
- The audit explores the CEs through 790 protocol questions (PQs), in eight areas (note: these areas don't directly align with the eight CEs).
 - Primary Aviation Legislation and Civil Aviation Regulations (LEG)
 - Civil Aviation Organization (ORG)
 - Personnel Licensing and Training (PEL)
 - Aircraft Operations (OPS)
 - Airworthiness of Aircraft (AIR)
 - Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG)
 - Air Navigation Services (ANS)
 - Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA)
- There are a further 16 PQs about our State Safety Programme, and 66 PQs about Safety Management Systems.

- In addition to the PQs, the preparation phase and self-assessment includes a State Aviation Activity Questionnaire of 171 questions.

Audit roles and participants

- CAA is the main agency coordinating the audit project, interacting with ICAO, facilitating the communication between ICAO and other participating organisations, coordinating answers to all PQs, ensuring we meet ICAO audit deadlines, and coordinating the logistics of the onsite visits in July 2025;
- MOT holds an important oversight role for the audit as the lead organisation for developing aviation policy and Civil Aviation Rules MOT; particular involvement in work surrounding the SSP and in responding to PQs related to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).
- TAIC is a key contributing agency for the audit, due to their role in aircraft accident and incident investigation according to Annex 13 of the Chicago Convention; responsible for the majority of PQs in Area 6 AIG accident and incident investigation. Note: TAIC is a Crown Entity that must act independently from the Government, regulatory agencies, and transport operators when conducting its investigations.
- A number of organisations operating in New Zealand's aviation system are anticipated to be involved in the onsite visits in July, including the following:
 - MetService – as the certificated provider of weather forecasting services for aviation
 - Airways NZ – as New Zealand's air navigation service provider (ANSP)
 - Maritime New Zealand and the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ)
 - NZ Search and Rescue Council
 - New Zealand Defence Force
 - Aspeq
 - Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Organisations in the following will also be involved but have yet to be confirmed:
 - International airport(s)
 - International air operator
 - Maintenance organisation(s)
 - Design / manufacturing organisation(s)
 - Training organisation x2

Different ICAO audits

A safety audit is different from a security audit, though both are conducted by ICAO. New Zealand's most recent aviation security audit was undertaken in 2022.

External references

[Welcome to the USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach \(CMA\) website](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about USOAP](#)

[Regional USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach \(CMA\) Workshop - slides](#)