

# **Charter of the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee**

## **U.S. Department of Transportation**

**1. Committee's Official Designation:** Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee (SOCAC).

**2. Authority.** The Committee is established pursuant to section 202, "Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee," of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Public Law 115-254. The SOCAC will operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) as amended, Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The SOCAC will provide advice to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation on policy-level issues facing the aviation community that are related to FAA safety oversight and certification programs and activities, including, at a minimum, the following as authorized by Public Law 115-254:

- a. Aircraft and flight standards certification processes, including efforts to streamline those processes;
- b. Implementation and oversight of safety management systems;
- c. Risk-based oversight efforts;
- d. Utilization of delegation and designation authorities, including organization designation authorization;
- e. Regulatory interpretation standardization efforts;
- f. Training programs;
- g. Expediting the rulemaking process and giving priority to rules related to safety; and
- h. Enhancing global competitiveness of United States manufactured and United States certificated aerospace and aviation products and services throughout the world.

**4. Description of duties.** The SOCAC will act solely in an advisory capacity and will not exercise program management responsibilities. Decisions directly affecting implementation of transportation policy will remain with the FAA Administrator and the Secretary of Transportation. The SOCAC will undertake only tasks assigned to it by the Secretary of Transportation through the FAA Administrator. As authorized by Public Law 115-254, the SOCAC will:

- a. Provide FAA direct, first-hand information and insight by meeting together and exchanging ideas on the tasks assigned.

- b.** Foster industry collaboration in an open and transparent manner. Consult with, and ensure participation by the private sector, including representatives of:
  - 1.** General aviation;
  - 2.** Commercial aviation;
  - 3.** Aviation labor;
  - 4.** Aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul;
  - 5.** Aviation, aerospace, and avionics manufacturing;
  - 6.** Unmanned aircraft systems operators and manufacturers and the commercial space transportation industry;
  - 7.** Members of the public; and
  - 8.** Other interested parties.
- c.** Recommend consensus national goals, strategic objectives, and priorities for the most efficient, streamlined, and cost-effective certification and safety oversight processes in order to maintain the safety of the aviation system and, at the same time, allow FAA to meet future needs and ensure that aviation stakeholders remain competitive in the global marketplace.
- d.** Provide policy guidance recommendations for FAA's certification and safety oversight efforts.
- e.** On a regular basis, review and provide recommendations on FAA's certification and safety oversight efforts.
- f.** Periodically review and evaluate registration, certification, and related fees.
- g.** Provide appropriate legislative, regulatory, and guidance recommendations for the air transportation system and the aviation safety regulatory environment.
- h.** Recommend performance objectives for FAA and industry.
- i.** Recommend performance metrics and goals to track and review FAA and the regulated aviation industry on their progress towards streamlining certification reform, conducting flight standards reform, and carrying out regulation consistency efforts.
- j.** Provide a venue for tracking progress toward national goals and sustaining joint commitments.

- k. Recommend recruiting, hiring, training, and continuing education objectives for FAA aviation safety engineers and aviation safety inspectors.
- l. Provide advice and recommendations to FAA on how to prioritize safety rulemaking projects.
- m. Improve the development of FAA regulations by providing information, advice, and recommendations related to aviation issues.
- n. Facilitate the validation and acceptance of United States manufactured and United States certificated products and services throughout the world.

**5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The SOCAC reports to the Secretary of Transportation through the FAA Administrator.

**6. Support.** The FAA's Office of Rulemaking will provide support for SOCAC.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Cost and Staff Years.** The estimated annual operating cost (including pro rata share of salaries of U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) employees, and travel) is \$750,000. The SOCAC will require the support of approximately 6.5 full time equivalent (FTE) employees per year.

**8. Designated Federal Officer.** The FAA Administrator, on behalf of the Secretary of Transportation, will appoint a full time or permanent part-time Federal employee as the SOCAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO (or designee) will:

- a. Ensure compliance with FACA and any other applicable laws and regulations;
- b. Call and attend all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings and determine where they are to be held;
- c. Formulate and approve an agenda for each meeting, in consultation with the Chair;
- d. Notify all SOCAC members of the time and place, and agenda for meetings;
- e. Chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary of Transportation through the FAA Administrator;
- f. Maintain files and records; and
- g. Adjourn any meetings when doing so would be in the public interest.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The SOCAC will meet at least twice a year. Each meeting of SOCAC will be open to the public, except as provided under Section 10(d) of FACA, as implemented by 41 CFR part 102-3, and DOT Order 1120.3B.

- a. Persons wishing to make a presentation before the SOCAC must notify the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson per instructions in the meeting notice. Written materials may be submitted to SOCAC at any time through the DFO.
- b. The FAA will publish a notice of the agenda, date, time, and location, and purpose of the meeting in the Federal Register at least 15 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting.

**10. Duration.** As directed in Public Law 115-254, SOCAC will terminate on the last day of the 6-year period beginning on the date of the initial appointment of advisory committee members.

**11. Termination.** This charter terminates 2 years after its effective date, unless renewed in accordance with FACA and other applicable requirements.

**12. Membership and Designation.**

- a. The SOCAC shall comprise members appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation upon recommendation by the FAA Administrator. All SOCAC members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Transportation.
- b. The SOCAC will have no more than 20 voting members who will serve as Representative members. The SOCAC shall comprise the Administrator (or the Administrator's designee) and at least 11 individuals, each of whom represents at least 1 of the following interests: transport aircraft and engine manufacturers; general aviation aircraft and engine manufacturers; avionics and equipment manufacturers; aviation labor organizations, including collective bargaining representatives of FAA aviation safety inspectors and aviation safety engineers; general aviation operators; air carriers; business aviation operators; unmanned aircraft systems manufacturers and operators; aviation safety management experts; aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul; and airport owners and operators. The designated organizations provide balanced membership in terms of knowledge, expertise and points of view of interested parties relative to SOCAC's tasks.
- c. As authorized by Public Law 115-254, the Secretary shall appoint nonvoting Regular Government Employee (RGE) members representing FAA safety oversight program offices. Nonvoting members may take part in deliberations of the Advisory Committee; and provide input with respect to any final reports or recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Nonvoting members may not represent any stakeholder interest other than that of an FAA safety oversight program office.
- d. All members are appointed for a 2-year term.
- e. The SOCAC shall have the following characteristics as authorized by Public Law 115-254:

1. Each voting member shall be an executive officer of the organization who has decision making authority within the member's organization and can represent and enter into commitments on behalf of such organization.
  2. The ability to obtain necessary information from experts in the aviation and aerospace communities.
  3. A membership size that enables the Advisory Committee to have substantive discussions and reach consensus on issues in a timely manner.
  4. Appropriate expertise, including expertise in certification and risk-based safety oversight processes, operations, policy, technology, labor relations, training, and finance.
- f. Members serve without compensation. The employing organization bears all costs related to its participation.
- g. The Secretary of Transportation shall select a Chairperson from among those members of the SOCAC that are voting members.

**13. Subcommittees.** The SOCAC DFO has the authority to create and dissolve subcommittees as needed.

As authorized by Public Law 115-254, the SOCAC may establish special committees composed of private sector representatives, members of the public, labor representatives, and other relevant parties. A special committee established by the SOCAC may:

- a. Provide rulemaking advice and recommendations to the SOCAC with respect to aviation-related issues;
- b. Provide FAA additional opportunities to obtain firsthand information and insight from those parties that are most affected by existing and proposed regulations; and
- c. Assist in expediting the development, revision, or elimination of rules without circumventing public rulemaking processes and procedures.

In accordance with Public Law 115-254, any special committee established by the SOCAC is not subject to FACA.

Subcommittees and Special Committees must not work independently of SOCAC. They must provide recommendations and advice directly to the SOCAC for deliberation, discussion, and potential recommendation.

**14. Recordkeeping.** The records of SOCAC are handled in accordance with National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) General Records Schedule 6.2. Consistent with the

Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the records, reports, transcripts, minutes, and other documents that are made available to, or prepared for or by, SOCAC will be available for public inspection and copying at the Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20591. The FAA will charge a fee for information furnished to the public in accordance with the fee schedule published in 49 CFR part 7. The SOCAC records are also located on FAA's committee public website.

**15. Filing Date.** This Charter is effective March 25, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK Elwell". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Daniel K. Elwell  
Acting Administrator