

Security Management Systems (SeMS)

Key Information for Industry



‘A Security Management System (SeMS) should be formulated through and incorporated within an organisations holistic approach to security to generate maximum awareness, buy-in and real-world benefit across all levels of the organization.’

‘SeMS provides an entity with a framework of operating principles and guidance which enable it to enhance security performance by proactively managing risks, threats, and areas where there are gaps and vulnerabilities which may have a negative impact on that performance.’

‘SeMS should not be isolated or separated from daily operations, regular risk assessments or other safety, security or corporate culture initiatives or activities’

Non-attributable SeMS commentaries

Demystifying a Security Management System?

What it does:

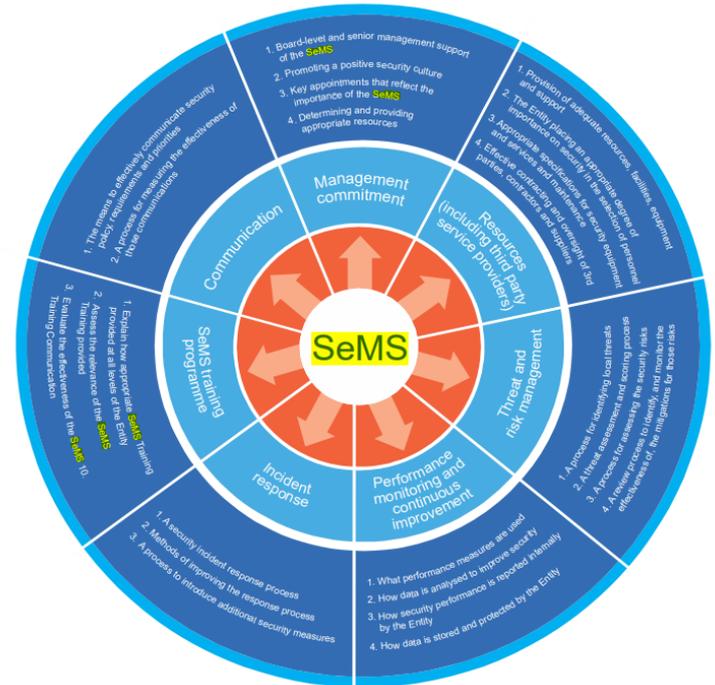
- Creates Board / Senior level accountability for security
- Encourages transparent and verifiable security
- Delivers greater visibility of compliance assurance
- Enables more effective use of existing resources, tools and systems
- Encourages collaborative approaches
- Empowers and promotes proactive reporting
- Drives a more assurance-based regime

What it is not:

- It is not a set of documents you put on a shelf
- It does not have to cost a fortune!
- It is not an IT system
- It is not a *one size fits all* solution
- It is not a rigid process
- It does not replace the need to comply with security regulations
- It is not defined by a single set of terminologies, structures or approaches

ICAO perspective – Key components include:

- ✓ Management commitment and accountability;
- ✓ Resources (including third-party service providers);
- ✓ Threat and risk management;
- ✓ Performance monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement;
- ✓ Incident response;
- ✓ SeMS training programme;
- ✓ Communication



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Other SeMS variants exist (there is no one clearly defined set of metrics or terminologies) but on the whole all should draw from and/or expand upon these ICAO baseline elements

What are the advantages of a SeMS?

- ✓ It is suitable for any entity regardless of size or operation
- ✓ Allows for enhanced security performance driven by risk-based decision making
- ✓ Enables more effective use of existing resources, tools and systems
- ✓ Ensures accountability is set at the correct level within your organisation and appropriate funding is provided
- ✓ Supports the development of a positive Security Culture where security is everyone's responsibility
- ✓ Encourages the discussion and sharing of new ideas and best practice
- ✓ Draws parallels with SMS (Safety Management Systems) and follows a similar structure, (many processes may already exist within your organisation)
- ✓ It allows organisation to adopt and present a holistic approach to security management and delivery

SeMS Development: Advice & Guidance...

- ✓ Complete a Gap Analysis to determine processes and procedures that currently exist within your organization – do not look to reinvent the wheel
- ✓ Incorporate and build upon existing governance, internal QA (quality assurance) and Risk Management processes – use what you already have to best advantage
- ✓ Optimise existing systems, processes, metrics and resources - there is no specific requirement for additional software (SeMS is not an I.T. based solution)
- ✓ Align with other Management Systems where already in operation i.e., SMS, ISMS, QMS – look to develop and support a holistic Integrated Management System.
- ✓ Access guidance and support from a wide variety of sources e.g., ICAO, IATA, ACI, regulatory bodies, e.g., CAA and/or wider industry colleagues and/or associations during your ongoing SeMS development
- ✓ Share ideas and best practice with other SeMS entities - join the growing SeMS community to share and discuss issues, concerns, ideas, suggestions, recommended best practice, metrics, processes and systems

Additional Material and Resources

SeMS material:

- <https://www.icao.int/security/sfp/pages/securitymanual.aspx>
- <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/security/security-management-system-sems/>
- <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/security/security-management-systems/security-management-systems/>

Security Culture:

- <https://www.icao.int/Security/Security-Culture/Pages/YOSC-2021.aspx>
- <https://www.icao.int/Security/Security-Culture/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=What%20is%20security%20culture%3F,and%20personnel%20within%20the%20organization.>

SeMS Self-Study Competency Evaluation:

- <https://www.iata.org/en/training/courses/sems-competency-test/tscs63/en/>