



EXPLAINED

In September 2021, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) approved the Commercial Air Travel Safety Guidance for use by the UN Security Management System (UNSMS). This Guidance abolishes and supersedes the UNSMS Air Travel Policy, promulgated in 2019. The revised Guidance has an effective implementation date of 15 January 2022.

WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME?

The UNDSS Commercial Air Travel Safety Unit (CATSU) will continue to ensure that:

1. Consistency is provided to all UNSMS organizations seeking information, advice, and recommendations on the use of commercial air operators system-wide.
2. UNSMS organizations are able to optimize safety considerations for their commercial air travel requirements.

CATSU will continue to assess the relative safety of global commercial air operators and non-government operated donated flights. Recommendations and guidance will still be accessible on the [United Nations Security Managers Information Network \(UNSMIN\)](#).

Air Travel Safety Focal Points (ATFPs) authorized and assigned by their UNSMS organization will continue to liaise between CATSU and their personnel through undss.aviation@un.org.







WHAT IS NEW?

The following items, mentioned by the former UNSMS Commercial Air Travel Safety Policy, will no longer be supported and/or required:

- Government &/or military owned/operated donated flights.
- Donated chartered flights.
- Evacuation flights: CASEVAC or MEDEVAC.
- Non-commercial flights: Air transport offered on private, personal, or corporate aircrafts.
- Internal mechanisms.
- While internal mechanisms are no longer required, an internal process/procedure is recommended for the approval and use of 'off-list' air operator.
- Expanded technical reviews.
- On-the-ground air operator assessments.
- Any role for the Security Management Teams.
- Aviation security.



CATSU MANDATE

-  01 **Collects, collates, analyses, and communicates** air operator safety information to the UNSMS.
-  02 **Serves as the central repository** of all commercial air operator safety information for the UNSMS and maintains this safety information.
-  03 **Provides reviews of commercial air operators and list of operators meeting** established safety thresholds (recommended list).
-  04 **Provides reviews of those air operators not meeting** established safety thresholds (off-list air operators) for the purposes of decision-making for operational planning and official travel.
-  05 **Provides support to authorized UNSMS Air Travel Focal Points** through the UN's only Help Desk dedicated to aviation safety.
-  06 **Ensures coordination with other UN aviation professionals** for system-wide consistency in the provision of aviation safety advice.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Each UNSMS organization

- Has full and final decision-making authority on the use of commercial air operators for official travel of their personnel, through their own internal decision-making mechanisms and processes.
- Identifies and authorizes air travel focal points to liaise between CATSU and their organization.
- Reports any safety concerns relating to commercial air operators through their focal points.



The Designated Official

- Has authority to approve the use of any air operator, in emergency situations (such as CASEVAC/MEDEVAC, evacuation and relocation for safety or security purposes), to ensure the safety and security of UNSMS personnel in their area of responsibility.



UNDSS

- Serves as the central repository of commercial air operator safety information for the UNSMS.
- Maintains safety data on commercial air operators.
- Provides advice, in the form of recommendations, regarding the use of commercial air operators to UNSMS organizations.
- Conducts reviews of commercial air operators not on the list and/or provides information for those excluded from the list, upon request.
- Ensures coordination with the Aviation Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) for system-wide consistency in the provision of aviation safety advice.

LEARN MORE

Full guidance [here](#). Please visit [policy.un.org](#) to see all policies part of the Security Policy Manual.

CONTACT

For questions, please contact undss.aviation@un.org



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