



THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A VOLUNTARY, NON-PUNITIVE SELF-REPORTING PROGRAM UNDER THE SCOPE OF THE BRAZILIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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ABSTRACT

A safety management system (SMS) is an organizational approach for identifying and controlling safety risks within an industry. One SMS feature, voluntary and non-punitive safety report programs, can provide opportunities for organizational employees to identify hazards or risks within the operation. Additionally, research indicates organizations and individuals are more likely to report hazardous experiences and errors when they are guaranteed confidentiality and protection from retaliation. Brazil has the largest airline industry in South America; however, the country currently does not have a voluntary and nonpunitive safety reporting program maintained by the Brazilian Civil Aviation Authority, Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC). While individual Brazilian carriers have internal safety reporting programs, this limits the industry-level sharing of obtained safety data. Further, the Brazilian state may not be complying effectively with the safety reporting system requirement mandated in ICAO Annex 19. As one of the first studies into Brazilian safety reporting, this research used mixed methodologies, including a literature review, online survey of Brazilian commercial pilots, and structured interviews with stakeholders from ANAC and Brazilian carriers, to benchmark and develop guidance on introducing a voluntary and nonpunitive state safety reporting program in Brazil. Compiled data indicated airline pilots and stakeholders are familiar with Brazil's current reporting system; interviewees also supported an improvement to current safety reporting effectiveness. ANAC's focus on responsive regulation encourages the regulated operators to comply with the rules and at the same time motivates them to continue acting correctly. Therefore, the researchers recommended updating the current Brazilian State voluntary reporting system, specifically using the U.S., Europe, and Australia as regulatory references. Finally, the program development and implementation should be executed in close coordination with the different industry stakeholders.

Keywords: Safety Management System, Aviation Safety Action Program, Safety Reporting