



RTCA, Inc.
1150 18th Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 833-9339
Fax: (202) 833-9434
www.rtca.org

Frequently Asked Questions about RTCA as an SDO

Q: Is setting up an independent Standards Development Organization (SDO) a set-back for RTCA and the aviation industry?

A: Not at all. The establishment of an independent SDO will provide the industry with all the benefits of the previous work chartered by the FAA as a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC), but with additional flexibility to respond to industry requests.

Q: What is the goal of the new arrangement?

A: To provide a forum for the aviation industry to create high quality technical standards in a consensus process that includes experts from across the industry and government that advance the state of aviation, encourage innovation, expand the marketplace of ideas and solutions, and facilitate US leadership in a manner that maintains the enviable safety record of aviation in the United States and promotes safety and innovation around the world.

Q: Will the FAA be involved in RTCA Activities?

A: Even though the FAA is no longer chartering RTCA, the FAA is committed to be a full participant with RTCA and industry to develop standards. The leadership of RTCA coordinated the change with FAA leadership and has their support in this effort.

Q: Will RTCA have to change the process of creating technical standards?

A: RTCA will continue to follow the same proven consensus driven process it has followed for 83 years. Minor changes will be instituted to ensure that the proceedings of the committee continue to comply with U.S. anti-trust laws.

Q: Will the plenaries still be open to the public?

A: Yes. The main difference is the agendas will be posted at www.rtca.org and not in the federal register. Attendance at work group meetings will continue to be limited to members of the committee.

Q: Will the committees continue to be conducted in accordance with anti-trust laws?

A: Each meeting will be conducted according to formal anti-trust guidance principles, including statements at the beginning of plenaries and RTCA staff will ensure the meeting are conducted in a manner consistent with Anti-Trust Laws.

Q: Will there still be an FAA Designated Federal Officer (DFO)?



RTCA, Inc.
1150 18th Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 833-9339
Fax: (202) 833-9434
www.rtca.org

A: Because the meetings are not conducted as a FAC, the FAA will not have a DFO assigned to each committee. However, the FAA may continue to have a role on committees referred to as an “FAA Authorized Representative.” The FAA and RTCA are currently working to define that role

Q: Will the RTCA standards still be used as a means of compliance for FAA regulations such as Technical Standard Orders (TSOs)?

A: It is the intention of the FAA to continue to rely on RTCA to provide robust, validated standards that can serve as a means of compliance with regulations.

Q: How will the Program Management Committee (PMC) change?

A: The PMC will continue to operate as a steering committee overseeing the work of the Special Committees. Meetings will be open to the public. The RTCA President in consultation with the RTCA Policy Board will approve leadership and membership. No immediate changes to leadership nor membership is anticipated.

Q: Will RTCA continue to develop joint standards with EUROCAE?

A: Absolutely. The long-standing strong cooperation between RTCA and EURCAE will continue.

Q: Will the FAA still task RTCA to develop standards?

A: The request to produce a new standard or update an existing standard can come from either the FAA or industry. In either case, RTCA will adhere to its time-honored criteria for launching the work that includes, at a minimum, that more than one manufacturer will participate in the standard development and the resulting standard will serve its intended purpose, e.g., as a means of compliance with a regulation or means of ensuring interoperability among avionics systems and equipment.

Q: Will existing committees shut down as part of this transition?

A: No. All existing committees will continue working to satisfy their terms of reference (TOR).

Q: As a member of one or more committees, do I need to take any action?

A: Members will be asked to “opt in” to remain on the committees through the workspace tool. RTCA will update the TORs to reflect the migration from federal advisory committee to industry committee.