



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Task Nr: RMT.0216 (M.027)
Issue: 2
Date: 4 October 2011
Regulatory reference: Regulation (EC) 2042/2003¹ Annex I Part-M - M.B.303
Reference documents: None

1. Subject:

Aircraft Continuing Airworthiness Monitoring

2. Problem/Statement of issue and justification; reason for regulatory evolution (regulatory tasks):

M.B.303 requires competent authorities to develop a survey programme to monitor the airworthiness status of the fleet of aircraft on their register, referred to as Aircraft Continuing Airworthiness Monitoring (ACAM). The survey programme shall include a product survey, focusing on a number of Key Risk Elements (KRE).

Appendix III to AMC M.B.303(d) 'Aircraft Continuing Airworthiness Monitoring – Planning & Recording Document' defines those KREs for the product surveys to be conducted by competent authorities.

Based on feedback from competent authorities and considering typical findings encountered during standardisation inspections, it appears that ACAM requirements are not consistently and uniformly applied in all Member States. This justifies the need to review the existing rule material so as to improve clarity and to issue additional AMC and GM where appropriate.

In particular, the following issues should be addressed:

- responsibilities with regards to the root cause analysis of any finding;
- qualification requirements for inspectors performing ACAM inspections;
- crediting of inspections performed under other Parts;
- annual programme versus more flexible planning;
- further clarification on the correct use of the KREs;
- cases requiring exchange of data on ACAM findings between competent authorities;
- added value of in-flight surveys for the purpose of continuing airworthiness monitoring;

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) 2042/2003 of 20 November 2003 on the continuing airworthiness of aircraft and aeronautical products, parts and appliances, and on the approval of organisations and personnel involved in these tasks (OJ L 315, 28.11.2003, p. 1).

3. Objective:

Review M.B.303 and related AMCs and GM to ensure consistency and harmonised implementation of the ACAM by competent authorities.

In particular, the task should focus on clarifying:

- the handling of findings;
- different types of survey (in depth, ramp, in flight); and
- the use of KREs.

The aim is to:

- contribute to ensuring common understanding among competent authorities of the KREs to be used for the ACAM product survey;
- contribute to adopting a risk-based approach focussing on the safety significance of ACAM findings;
- support training of competent authority staff performing ACAM product surveys;
- encourage cooperation and exchange of information between authorities on ACAM survey findings.

This should enhance the consistency and reliability of ACAM, support standardisation, cooperative oversight and ultimately contribute to improving the level of safety.

4. Specific tasks and interface issues (Deliverables):

- Opinion to amend M.B.303 and, as necessary, other related Part-M Implementing Rules;
- Decision to amend AMCs and GM to Part-M and, as necessary, other related Part-M AMCs and GM, including GM to Appendix III to AMC M.B.303 (d).

Additional GM may draw upon material elaborated jointly by several Member States' competent authorities. Such GM should be regularly updated, so as to successively incorporate guidance on further typical findings.

5. Working Methods (in addition to the applicable Agency procedures):

Group

6. Time scale, milestones:

Start:	2010/Q4
NPA:	2011/Q3
CRD:	2012/Q1
Opinion/Decision:	2012/Q2