



Naval Safety Command

The Navy Safety Management System

NAVSAFECOM is responsible for implementing and executing the Navy's Safety Management System (SMS). An SMS is a formal, organizational-wide approach to managing risk and assuring the effectiveness of risk controls.

What is the Safety Management System?

The Navy Safety and Occupational Health Manual, OPNAV M-5100.23 CH-2, signed by the CNO Sept. 5, 2022, outlines and establishes the framework and requirements for instituting an SMS or Safety Management Plan (SMP) for Echelon II/III organizations and their subordinate commands.

- The Navy SMS is the system of systems for risk management and assessing the effectiveness of risk controls. A key part of the SMS framework is that it requires each level of command to consistently evaluate its own internal processes: to self-assess, self-correct and consistently communicate up. It includes systematic procedures, practices and policies for risk management, with assurance and regulatory processes built into it.
- All Naval Enterprise employees – military members, Navy civilians, contractors and industry partners are subject to the requirements of the Navy SMS.
- This enterprise-wide line of effort implements a system where four steps are in a continuous feed loop: **Plan, Do, Check, Act.** **Plan** to do something, **Do** it, **Check** if what you planned has the desired effect, **Act** to adjust fire to reach the intended effect and then repeat.
- The Echelon II commands and their subordinate units/commands are responsible for designing, owning and managing risk via a tailored, mission-specific SMS or SMP. This allows each command and unit to adapt their SMS or SMP to their specific operating context.
- NAVSAFECOM will continue to track all Navy and Marine Corps mishap investigations to identify causal factors and is empowered to verify appropriate corrective actions have been completed and coordinated to prevent recurrence.
- *A fundamental change is how we audit safety programs and our new authority to enforce compliance.* We will ensure recommendations are communicated as required and perform follow-up actions to ensure those recommendations and corrections are actually implemented.
- Further changes include the authority to conduct no-notice unit-level assessments to evaluate risk controls and continual self-improvement, and to review Echelons II and III certification processes of subordinate commands.

Why it matters

- An effective SMS enables an organization to implement and maintain a resilient, defense-in-depth-based system that reinforces a culture of continuous learning, and one that identifies and fixes problems while they are small, where risk ownership and accountability are held at the appropriate level, and where hazards and near misses are communicated.
- By building a culture that is self-aware, self-assessing, self-correcting and continually learning, we can identify problems before they get out of hand or become a mishap.
- An effective SMS/SMP promotes and ensures an organization is Safe to Operate and Operating Safely. Safe to Operate means an organization's Place (workplace environment), People, Property/Materiel and Processes/Procedures are operating within required parameters.
- Everyone has a duty to Operate Safely by preserving Safe-to-Operate conditions. Operating Safely is executing the mission within the designed safety envelope. The safety envelope is normally maintained by operating within established procedures.